

St Michael the Archangel ECC Parish
Constitution
as promulgated 29 June 2014
& amended 8 January 2017

PREAMBLE:

We, as baptized members of the Catholic Church of Jesus Christ, responding in faith to the call of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel, desiring to unite together to preach the Word, celebrate the sacraments, and carry out God's mission, do hereby adopt this constitution and solemnly pledge ourselves to be governed by its provisions. In the Name of the Creator and of the Redeemer and of the Life Giver.

I. NAME

The name of this faith community shall be: Saint Michael the Archangel Ecumenical Catholic Church.

For purposes of this constitution, "Saint Michael the Archangel Ecumenical Catholic Church," is hereinafter designated as "this faith community" or "this parish."

This faith community shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Arizona.

II. AFFILIATION

A. Saint Michael the Archangel Ecumenical Catholic Church is an independent church of The Ecumenical Catholic Communion (ECC). As a member of the ECC, this faith community follows the Constitution of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion, as well, as its bylaws, policies, and procedures, on all matters not covered herein, and provides financial support to the wider communion.

B. Separation from the ECC: If issues develop between the parish and the ECC, which cannot be reconciled, the parish may decide to separate from the ECC under the following conditions:

- a two-thirds vote of the full Parish Council, in favor of separating from the ECC, and
- a formal majority vote in favor of separating from the ECC by all parish members attending a special meeting.

III. ARTICLES OF FAITH

As a community of faith within the Ecumenical Catholic Communion, we accept and profess the articles of faith of our national congregation.

IV. PURPOSE AND MISSION

We are a community, which is ecumenical, apostolic, and catholic in that we celebrate a characteristically Catholic faith tradition that is not sectarian.

As a faith community we commit ourselves by:

- forming the Body of Christ,
- being inclusive and welcoming of all people in their journeys of faith,
- working in the area of social justice,
- recognizing and using each of our gifts from God, and
- discovering God in each other.

V. MEMBERSHIP

Those wishing to be members of our parish faith community need only show a willingness to so belong. In compliance with the ECC Constitution, all members must be validly baptized in the Christian tradition. This willingness is symbolized by completing a parish registration form. Whether registered or not, all who attend are entitled to a voice on issues referred to the community by the pastor or Parish Council. Should a formal vote on an issue ever be required, only those registered shall vote.

VI. CLERGY AND THE PASTORATE

A. Clergy

Clergy of this parish, whether deacons or priests, must be approved by a formal majority vote of this faith community and must be confirmed as clergy by the national offices of the ECC. All matters not covered regarding clergy in this parish's constitution are governed by the Constitution of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion.

B. Selection of Pastors

The community selects a pastor in a spirit of prayerful discernment according to the following steps:

1. The Parish Council appoints a Selection Committee.
2. The Selection Committee performs a search for potential candidates.
3. The Selection Committee presents a candidate to the Parish Council.
A majority vote of the full Parish Council is required.
4. Should the approved candidate not be ordained or the candidate's ordination not yet be accepted by the ECC, then the Parish will present its recommendations to a) the ECC Evaluation Committee and b) the Ordinary for approval.

C. Purpose of Pastors

A pastor is an ordained priest who provides spiritual leadership to the faith community. The pastor is under the authority of the Presiding Bishop of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion.

The pastor shall:

- supervise and guide the activities of all clergy in the parish,
- administer the liturgical programs of the parish,
- serve as a member of the Parish Council,
- assist in the budgeting and business planning of the parish, and
- serve as Parish Administrator, unless one is appointed separately.

While the pastor is responsible for the general wellbeing of the parish, his / her areas of special authority are theological, spiritual, and liturgical. All other areas are delegated to the Parish Administrator, Parish Council, and Parish Ministry Teams. The pastor is a special advisor to these entities and individuals, and those entities and individuals shall defer to the pastor in theological, spiritual, and liturgical matters.

D. Removal of a Pastor (by the Ordinary)

Conditions to remove the pastor are two-thirds (2/3) vote of the full Parish Council, in favor of removing the pastor.

Criteria/Grounds for removal:

- incompetence,
- unconstitutional behavior ,
- abuse of power,
- physical or mental / emotional health,
- doctrinal misconduct, and / or
- felonious conduct.

The Ordinary shall be a non-voting observer of these proceedings, to insure due process. The Ordinary may intercede, if arbitration is required. If the Pastor is voted out, the Ordinary shall remove him/her from the position in the Parish.

VII. PARISH FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

The Parish Financial Committee provides accounting oversight for the faith community. The Chair of the Parish Financial Committee shall:

- supervise accounting activities,
- serve as a member of the Parish Council,
- chair budgeting and business planning sessions of the parish,
- prepare appropriate reports, and
- collaborate with the pastor.

VIII. PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council is the faith community's decision-making body. The Parish Council shall meet at least quarterly, or at the discretion of the Council members. The Council shall establish its own bylaws for operation. The Parish Council shall consist of all registered members of the parish. A quorum for the Parish Council shall be seven (7) attendees. The Parish Council shall be responsible for making and implementing decisions on, but not limited to:

- the physical needs of the parish environment,
- the legal, financial, and budget needs of the parish,
- the acquisitions and purchases for the parish,
- the promoting community life and activities,
- public relations,
- hospitality,
- the development of policies and procedures as necessary and the maintenance of a manual listing all of these, and
- the maintenance of all parish records.

IX. PARISH MINISTRY TEAMS

The purpose of Parish Ministry Teams is to provide ministerial services, such as: religious education, youth ministry, music ministry, liturgy, adult education, and Eucharistic ministry.

X. DISSOLUTION OF PROPERTY RIGHTS

In the event that the parish is dissolved as an entity, all of its debts and obligations are to be paid in full. Any remaining assets are to be donated to the ECC. If the ECC declines the assets, the Parish Council shall decide where to donate the remaining assets by a majority vote.

XI. RATIFICATION AND AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

- A. Initial ratification of the Constitution shall require a favorable vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the parish members.
- B. The steps to amending the Constitution are:
 - Proposed substantive amendment(s) may be submitted to all Parish Council members in writing for consideration.
 - The Parish Council will consider any proposed amendment(s) presented to it. A two-thirds (2/3) vote is required to pass any amendment(s).

- Any non-substantive grammatical change or clarification may be made by notification of the Parish Council of the issue.
- The Constitution shall be considered amended immediately unless the resolution sets another timeline.

As Amended by vote of the Parish Council
8 January 2017