The Constitution

Of

Morningside Community Church

Montezuma, Kansas

Revised and Adopted

August 2013

Article I—Name

This organization shall be known as the Morningside Community Church of Montezuma, Kansas, duly registered under the laws of the State of Kansas as a nonprofit organization, and this constitution serves as its by-laws.

Article II—Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be: (1) to bring the Gospel to the unsaved and lead them to faith in Jesus Christ according to the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20, and (2) to establish and strengthen the Christian life of each person of the congregation by providing opportunities for worship, instruction, fellowship and service according to the Lord’s teaching in Ephesians 4:11-12.

Article III—Membership

**Section 1—Obtaining Membership.** The membership of this congregation shall consist of all persons who have professed faith in Christ, expressed their desire to be received into the fellowship of Morningside Community Church, and have given testimony of their faith in the presence of the congregation, the elders, or the pastor.

**Section 2—Covenant of Members.** As members we covenant, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul (1 Peter 2:11); this being God’s standard that we should desire that we will put away from us all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and evil speaking, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God, for Christ’s sake, has forgiven us (Ephesians 4:31-32); that as we have opportunity, we will do good to all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith (Galatians 6:10); that we will remember them which have the rule over us, who speak unto us the Word of God (Hebrews 13:7); and that we will give as God has prospered us (1 Corinthians 16:2); not grudgingly, or of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7).

**Section 3—Membership Maintenance.** A person can withdraw or forfeit their membership by request or by default by: 1) submitting in writing a formal letter or request of transfer, 2) being absent from fellowship with this local body for two consecutive months without communication to someone on the Administrative Board regarding needs, concerns or reasons for their absence, or 3) continued willful violation or rejection of the Membership Covenant and/or Statement of Faith after the person has been confronted about the violation (Matthew 18:15-17).

**Section 4—Real Estate Rights.** Any member or members withdrawing from, or in any other way losing their membership in the congregation, thereby forfeit all rights and privileges to any or all properties belonging to the congregation. Should this local church cease to function as an organization, no member shall be entitled to proceeds of the sale of congregational assets. After debts are fully paid, any monies remaining shall be evenly distributed among the current missionaries being supported.

Article IV—Church Ministry

**Section 1—Pastor.**

*Par. 1—Qualifications*

1. The pastor’s life and character shall correspond with the spiritual standards set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.
2. The pastor shall be a man (1 Timothy 3:1).
3. The pastor shall be in agreement with the local church constitution and willing to work with and support the various ministries of the Morningside congregation.

*Par. 2—Selection*. When a pastoral vacancy occurs, the fellowship of believers shall prayerfully seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to engage a qualified person proceeding in the following manner.

1. The Board of Elders shall guide in the selection of the pastor. They shall appoint a search committee with at least one of them serving on the committee.
2. The Board of Elders shall seek prospective pastoral candidates and shall discern whether or not the person under consideration meets the qualifications for pastoral leadership and whether or not the candidate should be invited to visit the church.
3. Following a visit by the pastoral candidate, the Administrative Board shall discern if an invitation to call the candidate as pastor should be recommended to the church.
4. The congregation shall act, upon a recommendation by the Administrative Board, at a congregational meeting called for that purpose. The pastor shall be called by a secret ballot vote. A favorable vote shall require 75% of the votes cast. The Administrative Board will act according to the results of the vote.

*Par. 3—Tenure*

1. The pastor shall be called by this church for an indefinite period of time. His work and ministries shall be monitored by the Board of Elders. The pastor must subscribe to the Statement of Faith and Constitution of the church and promise to uphold and defend the same as responsible before God.
2. The pastor’s office can be terminated either by his resignation, or by a vote of 51% or more at a congregational meeting. When the pastoral relationship is dissolved by request of the church or by his resignation, either shall have the right to claim 30 days from the time such request is formally made before the relationship between them shall cease.
3. In case the pastor is being dismissed for any practice which brings reproach upon the name of the Savior, or the office of the pastorate, he may be dismissed immediately without notice by the Board of Elders if proven guilty.

*Par. 4—Function*

1. The pastor shall serve as one of the elders, and as an advisor to the Administrative Board.
2. The pastor, in addition, shall serve as a spiritual leader of the church. He shall faithfully declare the complete and infallible Word of God, give direction, vision, and leadership, provide opportunities for leadership training and enable and equip these believers for spiritual ministries.
3. The pastor shall be responsible to the Board of Elders for his ministry.
4. The pastor shall be responsible for all regular services.
5. The pastor is to make his best effort to acknowledge all visitors with a phone call or note and to respond to requests for visitation.

*Par. 5—Privileges*

1. The pastor shall receive 2 weeks annual vacation, not to exceed 2 Sundays. He shall receive 2 weeks, not to exceed 2 Sundays for evangelistic services and/or continuing education. Additional time-off shall be arranged with the approval of the board.
2. Mileage allowance and expenses will be paid to attend conferences and for approved ministries.
3. Parsonage and all utilities with exception of personal telephone will be provided. Salary, health insurance and social security will be negotiated with candidate and reviewed annually.
4. Suggested office hours for the pastor will be from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Monday thru Friday except for emergencies. Pastor may select one of these days as a day off. He should post his office hours and his day off. For routine matters, the congregation is encouraged to contact the pastor during office hours at the church office to give pastor time and privacy with his family at home.

*Par. 6—Associate Pastor.* The associate pastor’s qualifications and selection are the same as the qualifications and selection of the pastor listed under this section. The associate pastor will be directly responsible to the pastor.

**Section 2—Chairman of Congregation.** The chairman of the congregation shall be elected at the annual business meeting for a term of one (1) year or until his successor is elected. He shall be elected from the Board of Elders and he shall have served a term of one (1) year or more as an elder. He shall serve as chairman of the Board of Elders as well as the Administrative Board. As chairman of the congregation he shall serve as chairman of all congregational business meetings and in the absence of the pastor, he shall be responsible for the leadership in all meetings normally led by the pastor.

**Section 3—Church Secretary.** The church secretary shall be appointed by the Administrative Board. It shall be his/her duty to keep an accurate record of the proceedings of all business meetings of the congregation.

**Section 4—Treasurer.** The church treasurer shall be appointed by the Administrative Board. He shall be responsible for the oversight of all funds and deposits of the congregation making sure they are placed in a reliable banking institution. He shall review the payment of bills and record keeping, making a monthly report to the Administrative Board. He shall make a written report to the annual business meeting, or upon request of the Administrative Board. By virtue of his office, he shall be chairman of the Board of Deacons.

**Section 5—Sunday School Superintendent.** The Sunday School superintendent shall be elected at the annual business meeting of the congregation and shall serve for a period of one (1) year or until a successor is elected. He/she shall have general supervision of the Sunday School and shall direct the educational activities of the congregation with the pastor, associate pastor and the Administrative Board in providing the adequate Christian teaching for the congregation and the people of the community. It shall be his/her responsibility to oversee the collection of all funds and the ordering of all supplies and materials for the Sunday School. He/she shall prepare and give a report to the annual business meeting of the church.

**Section 6—Other Ministry Positions.** Other positions of service within the ministries of the church may be appointed as needed by the Administrative Board. Those appointed to these positions will serve under the oversight of the pastor as a representative of the Administrative Board.

Article V—Church Committees

**Section 1. Board of Elders.** The Board of Elders shall consist of the pastor and men elected by the congregation. For elder qualifications see Article IV, Section 1 (Qualifications: Pastor). An Elder shall be elected at a congregational meeting. A favorable vote will require 75% of the votes cast. An elder will serve until he resigns or is disqualified. It is the responsibility of the Board of Elders to advise the pastor in matters pertaining to the spiritual growth and development of the church and any other duties that may be assigned to them by the Administrative Board of the congregation.

**Section 2. Board of Deacons.** The Board of Deacons shall consist of men elected by the congregation. The qualifications for serving as deacon are in 1 Timothy 3:8-10. A deacon shall be elected at a congregational meeting. A favorable vote will require 75% of the votes cast. A deacon will serve until he resigns or is disqualified. The Board of Deacons shall assume primary responsibility for all matters pertaining to the financial business of the congregation and shall be custodians of all church properties.

**Section 3. Elder or Deacon Emeritus.** When a person has been selected to serve as an Elder or Deacon in this local assembly, he shall be considered an Elder or Deacon for “life” (emeritus) providing he does not disqualify himself scripturally or voluntarily resigns. Though he will be considered an Elder or Deacon for “life” (that is, as long as he is a member of this local assembly), it is suggested that he take at least a one year sabbatical from serving on the Administrative Board after serving for three or more years in that capacity. During this time he will be considered an Elder or Deacon Emeritus and he should be available and sought for counsel by the other Elders and Deacons.

**Section 4. Administrative Board.** The Board of Elders and the Board of Deacons shall meet together with the pastor to form the Administrative Board. The Chairman of the congregation shall serve as the chairman of this board and the Board shall select one of its members to serve as its secretary. This committee shall act in an advisory capacity to all church officers. It shall perform such duties as may be assigned to them by the congregation at various times and shall study and make recommendations as necessary to the congregation. It shall review and approve all proposed appointments made by any church officer or church committee. The Administrative Board shall also serve as the Nominating Board for the congregation. The Nominating Board shall be responsible to review elected positions prior to the Annual Business Meeting. The Nominating Board shall determine what positions need to be filled and the people to be placed on a ballot for consideration by the congregation. This ballot shall be posted along with the notice of the annual church business meeting.

Article VI—Business Meetings

**Section 1. Annual Business Meeting.** There shall be one business meeting of the congregation during the year for the purpose of hearing reports, elections, and planning the work of the congregation. This business meeting shall be held at the church. Newly elected officers shall fill their respective offices immediately after their election. Announcements of the annual business meeting shall be made and posted at the worship service on at least two (2) Sundays preceding the time of the meeting. The fiscal year of the congregation shall be from August 1 to July 31. The annual business meeting should be held in August on a date selected by the Administrative Board and announced according to the process described above.

**Section 2. Annual Reports.** A written and/or oral report shall be submitted to the congregation at the annual business meeting from the following officers: Pastor, Treasurer, Historian, Sunday School Superintendent. Other reports may be requested as deemed necessary by the Administrative Board.

**Section 3. Special Business and Congregational Meetings.** Special business or congregational meetings may be called at the request of the Administrative Board or by a written petition signed by ten (10) or more voting members of the congregation. Special business or congregational meetings shall be announced and posted at the regular worship service at least one (1) Sunday prior to such a meeting.

**Section 4. Quorum.** A quorum shall consist of at least 50% of the resident members. A resident member is one who attends regularly at Morningside Community Church. An example of someone who is not a resident member would be a missionary or a student who is attending college. A quorum will be required for special business meetings or congregational meetings.

Article VII—Elections

**Section 1. Method of Voting.** Elections shall be by ballot unless decided otherwise by consensus or majority vote. A majority of votes is necessary for the election unless a different percentage is specified in this constitution for a specific position.

**Section 2. Eligibility of Voters.** Members shall be eligible to vote if they are at least 18 years of age or older, and they have faithfully met the standards of membership maintenance.

Article VIII—Amendments

Amendments may be made to these by-laws at any congregational meeting by a three-fourths majority vote of eligible members present at the meeting. A quorum is necessary.

Article IX—Conveyances

All deeds, bills of sale, mortgages, deeds of trust and all other instruments intended to convey or encumber any of the property of the congregation or said corporation shall be signed and acknowledge on behalf of the congregation or said corporation by the chairman of the Administrative Board and by the church secretary or the church treasurer; provided that no real estate shall be conveyed or encumbered without a three-fourths majority of eligible voters present at a business meeting called for the purpose of considering such conveyances or encumbrances. A quorum is required.