

**THOUGHTS AND BACKGROUND FROM THE
CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS REVISION COMMITTEE**

Our three person committee has had the privilege of meeting on numerous occasions pursuant to our assignment to review the existing Constitution and Bylaws of Community Covenant Church.

First, we addressed the current Constitution and Bylaws and familiarized ourselves with them. Our initial effort also included meetings with some church leaders and the pastors. They are:

Pastor Gerald Frye
Pastor Scott Buetzow
Lee Peterson
Brian and Pam Feis
Beth Gouveia
Sharon Stenger
Amy Bostian

Some conclusions we drew from these sessions and in our committee meetings were that the current Constitution, last revised on January 22, 1985 (over 24 years ago), and Bylaws last revised November 2, 1997 (12 ½ years ago) do not represent the vehicles by which we can best grow the life and ministry of our church.

Vision 2010, which our church adopted, states that we are to have an organizational structure that “supports our mission, vision and priorities, with a strong sense of purpose that marks our programs and ministries. We seek to work through ministry teams and provide clear lines of support and accountability for all, with many links between ministry areas. We are to be staffed for effectiveness and committed to excellence in communication throughout the church.”

Thus we shall allow for a new organizational structure that supports our mission, vision and priorities.

All of this is not to say that our current Constitution and Bylaws have little value. To the contrary, they most certainly do. But serious attention needs to be given to a revised structure that addresses the results of our Vision 2010 effort. In response to this, our committee was formed.

In our initial meetings we evaluated three model constitutions and bylaws provided by the Evangelical Covenant Church. They were the Board Model (quite formal), the Council Model (which is the closest to our present Constitution and Bylaws), and the Leadership Model which is the general structure we are proposing and which most closely responds to Vision 2010.

With what we are proposing, we are seeking to clearly state our foundation in Christ, providing for greater simplicity and flexibility in structure to grow our mission rather than limit our ability to maximize our God-given people resources. In effect, a stronger center point from which to function.

There was a significant statement by a writer in the latest Easter edition of the Sacramento Bee. He stated:

There is a deep yearning across our land for a connection/a relationship with God. Religious institutions fail when those who lead them fail to recognize the authenticity of that yearning.

Our goal for this revised document is to provide a living structure (with a few changes in terminology) that clearly states who we are today as a church and what we believe, with the effective means by which we can individually and collectively live out our mission of connecting people in relationship with our God.

In your service,

Christie Middleton

Mark Talbot

Hal Larson

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FROM THE COMMITTEE.doc
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