

**THE CONSTITUTION OF
DIAMOND VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH**



LOVING TOGETHER, GROWING TOGETHER, SERVING TOGETHER

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PREAMBLE

In order that the witness of this Church may be born and carried out in accordance with Scriptural doctrines; that its evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, ministry and worship may be conducted in harmony with Christian principles; and that its business affairs may be administered in an orderly fashion and in a responsible manner consistent with Biblical teachings, we do adopt and set forth this constitution and its accompanying by-laws.

ARTICLE I – NAME

This organization shall be known as Diamond Valley Community Church, Inc, a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of California, hereinafter referred to as “this Church.” Its principal offices located in Hemet, California.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of the Diamond Valley Community Church is to bring about Life Transformation by developing Disciples of Christ who love Him purely, who grow in Him purposefully and who serve him passionately.

ARTICLE III - VISION

Our vision is to be a Church of genuine Disciples who Love, Grow, and Serve together to Transform our Community and the World with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE IV - STRATEGY

We are Transforming people into Disciples of Christ...

Worship: By creating an environment for Loving Believers to encounter God and freely express their **Love** for Him through Spirit led Worship.

Small Groups: By providing opportunities for Growing Disciples to **Grow** spiritually as they connect with God and with one another through Small Groups.

Ministry: By providing opportunities for Serving Saints to exercise their spiritual gifts as they **Serve** to fulfill God’s unique call to Ministry in their lives.



ARTICLE V - STATEMENT OF FAITH

The sole basis of our beliefs is the Bible, God's infallible written Word. We believe that it was uniquely, verbally and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, and that it was written without error in the original manuscripts. It is the supreme and final authority in all matters on which it speaks. We explicitly affirm our belief in basic Bible teachings, as follows:

1. **WHATWEBELIEVE: About God:** God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.
GEN 1:1, 26, 27; 3:22; PS 90:2; MAT 28:19; 1 PET 1:2; 2 COR 13:14
2. **WHATWEBELIEVE: About Mankind:** We are all made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. We are the supreme objects of God's creation. Although mankind has tremendous potential for good, we are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin". This attitude separates us from God.
GEN 1:27; PS 8:3-6; ISA 53:6A; ROM 3:23; ISA 59:1-2
3. **WHATWEBELIEVE: About Eternity:** We all were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or in union with God through forgiveness and salvation. The place of eternal separation from God is called Hell. Heaven is the place of eternal union and eternal life with God.
JOH 3:16; ROM 6:23; REV 20:15; MAT 25:41; REV 21:27
4. **WHATWEBELIEVE: About Jesus Christ:** Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again to earth to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.
MAT 1:22-23; ISA 9:6; JOH 1:1-5; 14:10-30; 1 COR 15:3-4; ROM 1:3-4; ACTS 1:9-11; 1 TIM 6:14-15; TIT 2:13
5. **WHATWEBELIEVE: About Salvation:** Salvation is a gift from God to mankind. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can we be saved from sin's penalty. Eternal life begins the moment we receive Jesus Christ into our life by faith.
ROM 6:23; EPH 2:8-9; JOH 14:6; JOH 1:12; TIT 3:5; GAL 3:26; ROM 5:1
6. **WHATWEBELIEVE: About Eternal Security:** Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the believer is secure in the salvation for eternity. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives this security.
JOH 10:29; 2 TIM 1:12; HEB 7:25; 10:10,14; 1 PET 1:3-5
7. **WHATWEBELIEVE: About The Holy Spirit:** The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make mankind aware of our need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. The Christian seeks to live under His control daily.
2 COR 3:17; JOH 16:7-13; JOH 14:16-17; ACTS 1:8; 1 COR 2:12; 1 COR 3:16; EPH 1:13; GAL 5:25; EPH 5:1
8. **WHATWEBELIEVE: About The Bible:** The Bible is God's word to all mankind. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is truth without any mixture of error.
2 TIM 3:16; 2 PET 1:20,21; 2 TIM 1:13; PS 119:105,160, 12:6; PRO 30:5

We accept these large areas of doctrinal teaching on which, historically, there has been general agreement among all true Christians. We desire to allow for freedom of conviction on either doctrinal matters, provided that any interpretation is based upon the Bible alone, and that no such interpretation shall become an issue which hinders the ministry to which God has called us.



ARTICLE VI - GOVERNMENT

The government of this church shall be under the Lordship of Christ and under the leadership of the Holy Spirit as exercised through a Board of Elders comprised of those who the Lord has gifted to rule as Elders. The Senior Pastor will sit as the Elder Board Chairman. The Elders will be assisted in this capacity by various officers, committees and staff as set forth in the by-laws.

ARTICLE VII - MEMBERSHIP

Membership in Diamond Valley Community Church shall be the means whereby the individual confesses his faith in Jesus Christ, commits himself to this body of believers by accepting the responsibilities which the Scriptures teach rest upon him as a member of Christ's body, and entrusts himself to its spiritual care, counsel and discipline. Any individual who makes a genuine profession of faith in Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord, may under the procedures outlined in the by-laws, become a member of Diamond Valley Community Church.

ARTICLE VIII - COVENANT OF DISCIPLESHIP

Section A - Introduction

The revelation of our God as demonstrated by His love for us requires a response on our part. A part of this response in the Scriptures was often exemplified in the making of covenants to one another. For this reason we have included a covenant commitment to this local body of believers who are to serve as our brothers and sisters and bear the responsibility for our growth in grace and in the knowledge of our God as Savior. Through this commitment we acknowledge our desire to grow in obedience to God. We are to be concerned for both the physical and spiritual well-being of each other (Gen. 4:9) and are to encourage one another daily so that we do not turn away from the Savior (Hebrews 3:15). Since we bear a responsibility for each other before the Lord, we are to stimulate one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24) and are to acknowledge our need for one another.

Section B - Basis for the Covenant

The basis upon which we are able to make a covenant with each other as members of Diamond Valley Community Church is as follows:

1. We believe that the Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, is the Word of God and, thus, the final authority in our lives;
2. We believe that, because of our sinfulness, we need a Savior and that we, therefore, cannot trust in our own works, but must trust in Jesus Christ alone and in the sufficiency of His works;
3. We acknowledge Jesus Christ as the sovereign Lord of our lives and believe that, by His grace, we can serve Him and turn from whatever displeases Him to a life that is pleasing to God; and
4. We believe that this congregation of God's people will help us to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our God and Savior, and are willing to submit to the authority of the spiritual leadership of this congregation as those who uphold its Constitution, who care for our spiritual well-being, and who must give an account to the Lord on the last day.



Section C - Commitments of the Covenant

Upon this basis, therefore, we covenant together as Members of Diamond Valley Community Church to lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him.

We commit, to loving the Lord as the Head of my Church by loving God with all my heart, by acknowledging Christ as the Head of my life, and by acknowledging Christ as the Head of my Church.

We commit, to loving those who attend my Church by acting in love toward other members, by refusing to gossip, and by following the leadership.

We commit, to growing spiritually in my church by attending faithfully, by living a godly life and by giving regularly.

We commit, to serving the ministry of my church by discovering my gifts and talents, by being equipped to serve by my pastors and elders, and by developing a servant's heart.

ARTICLE IX – CORE VALUES

We value Lifestyle Worship, in that we acknowledge God's supreme value and worth in our personal lives and in the corporate worship of this church, to that end we endeavor in every area of our life and ministry to fully and completely worship Him in spirit and in truth.

We value Lifestyle Witness, in that we believe our lifestyle witness is our spirit-filled witness and service demonstrated by our practice and proclamation of God's Word which socially and politically impacts our community and the world.

We value Lifestyle Learning, in that we believe that learning is a lifelong process of acquiring information, insight and wisdom for the purpose of transformation which comes through knowing God intimately through clear, accurate biblical instruction and study, for the purpose of being more like Christ and carrying our His Great Commission.

We value Community & Mission, in that we believe that it is our responsibility to demonstrate the love of God to all people by identifying, organizing, and ministering by the power of God to the social, emotional and spiritual needs of our community and the world.

We value Prayer, in that we believe prayer is our "life-source" and nothing significant happens without prayer. We therefore commit to personal and corporate prayer in the conception, planning and execution of all ministries of this church toward the fulfillment of God's plan.

We value Team Ministry, in that we believe that a team brings individuals together with multiple gifts, talents, skills and abilities for the purpose of moving forward the kingdom agenda of the church.

We value Organizational Integrity, in that we believe in biblical morality demonstrated by our upright character that is above reproach delivering the highest level of truthfulness and honesty.

We value Christian Education, in that we are committed to using God's Word with integrity and authority to provide education that promotes a Christian worldview.



ARTICLE X – SMALL GROUPS

These are groups made up of no less than 3 and no greater than 18. Once a groups reaches a consistent attendance of 18 members, it should take a minimum of 6 existing members and birth a new group. Small groups can take many different forms (home groups, ministry groups, discipleship groups, etc...). They meet throughout the week, either in homes or at the church building, in addition to our Sunday Church gathering.

A. Structure of Small Groups

All those in the Congregation are encouraged to participate in a Small Group. The number of Small Groups, their structure and leadership shall be determined by the Elders Council or Small Group ministry leadership.

B. Purpose of Small Groups

The Small Group structure is an attempt to follow the pattern of house churches or house fellowships which existed in the early Christian Church and to put into practice certain principles found in the New Testament that provide opportunities for:

1. Knowing God and seeing His work in each of us in a more personal and meaningful way.
2. Studying the word of God for the purpose of practically relating it to daily living (Colossians 3:16; 2 Timothy 3:16).
3. Interacting with one another by sharing, confession, and speaking the truth in love with one another (James 5:16; Ephesians 4:15,25).
4. Bearing one another's burdens through prayer, comfort, encouragement, and the sharing of material goods (Galatians 6:2; James 5:16; 1 Thessalonians 4:18; Hebrews 3:13; Acts 4:32).
5. Equipping each other for ministry and encouraging the discovery and use of spiritual gifts in ministry (Ephesians 4:12; 1 Peter 4:10,11).
6. Witnessing to those outside the Church (Matthew 28:18-20; John 17:21).
7. To fulfill the Church Strategy as outline in ARTICLE IV of the CONSTITUTION.
8. To fulfill DVCC's Small Group Strategy:
 - i. In every small group Consecration must take place:
 - a. Making prayer our priority and the means by which we dedicate ourselves to God's Kingdom purposes and plans. Our primary place of consecration small groups. The first strategic objective of Small Groups is PRAYER.
 - ii. In every small groups Connection must take place:
 - a. Getting connected with one another intentionally and purposefully by building relationships to facilitate ministry and maturity. Our primary place of connecting is in small groups. The second strategic objective of Small Groups is RELATIONSHIP BUILDING.
 - iii. In every small groups Community must take place:
 - a. Celebrating our diversity by focusing on Unity; Loving Together, Growing Together and Serving Together. Our primary place of practicing community is in small groups. The third strategic objective of Small Groups is BUILDING



UNITY around loving God and one another, growing together in the Word, and serving together in Ministry.

iv. In every small group Commitment must take place:

- a. Committed to being faithful to the called and our calling. Our first place of commitment is to a small group. The forth strategic objective is a COMMITMENT to all 3 steps: Worship (Love), Small Groups (Grow) and Ministry & Mission (Serve).

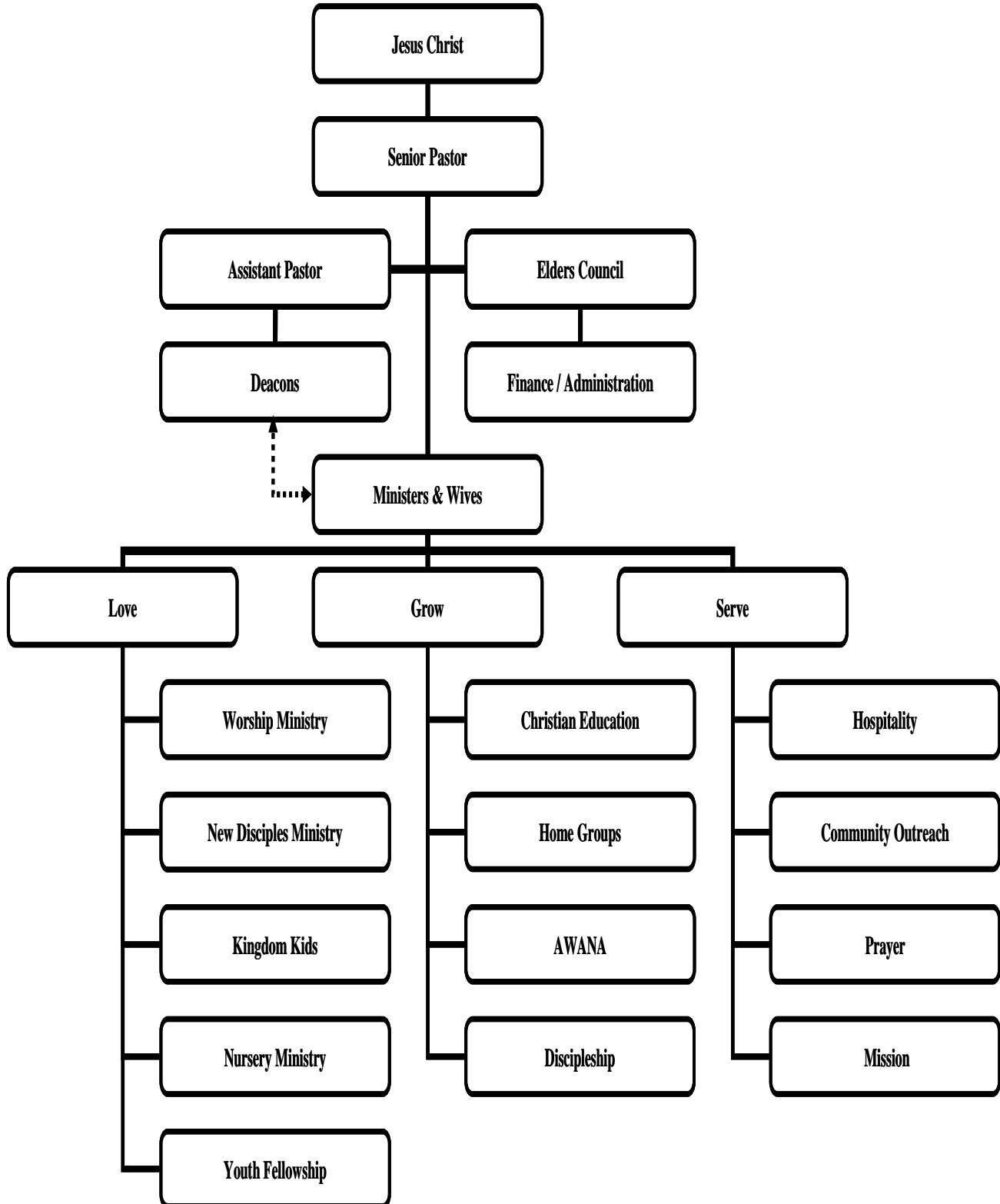
C. Meetings of Small Groups

Small Groups shall meet regularly, no less than twice a month, at a time and place determined by the individual Small Group. The times and places of Small Group meetings shall be made known to the Church to be published for the Congregation.



ARTICLE XI – LEADERSHIP CHART

The following chart reflects the leadership and ministry structure of the church.



ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS

All changes shall be guided by a desire to reflect Biblical attitudes and principles.

This Constitution may be amended at a regularly scheduled or special Business Meeting of the Church provided:

1. That notice of the proposed amendment, written in full, has been mailed or otherwise provided individually to all members, at least two weeks prior to the meeting;
2. That notice of the proposed business has been printed in the Church Bulletin or announced from the pulpit in the Sunday morning worship service on at least two Sundays prior to the meeting;
3. That the affirmative vote for an amendment shall not be less than three-quarters of the votes cast by the members present, and
4. That the Board of Elders by a majority vote endorses the expressed desire of the membership.



VISION, PURPOSE, STRATEGY FLOW

VISION

Who are we Becoming?

A Church of genuine **Disciples** who
Love, Grow & Serve Together to
TRANSFORM our Community & the World
with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

STRATEGY

How will we Do it?

We will **TRANSFORM** people
into **Disciples** of Christ by...

Creating an environment where
people will encounter God &
can freely express their **Love**
for Him through Spirit Led
WORSHIP.

Creating an environment where
people can **Grow** spiritually as
they connect with God and
with one another through
SMALL GROUPS.

Creating an environment where
people can utilize their spiritual
giftedness as they **Serve** to
fulfill God's unique call to
MINISTRY in their lives.

Vision

Strategy

Loving Together
Growing Together
Serving Together

PURPOSE

What are we Doing?

We are **TRANSFORMING** Lives
by developing **Disciples** of Christ
Who **Love** Him Purely
Who **Grow** in Him Purposefully &
Who **Serve** Him Passionately

Purpose

