

By - Laws

May 1, 2011

ARTICLE I NAME

Section 1. This Corporation shall be known as CHEMUNG CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP herein after referred to as the Church.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

Section 1. The purpose of this Church shall be to propagate the Christian faith and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ as revealed through the Holy Scriptures.

Section 2. To undertake such other and further purposes as may be necessary to fulfill the calling of a New Testament Church called to co-labor with the Lord in the earth, His harvest field.

Section 3. To teach and encourage believers to worship and exalt Jesus Christ as Lord and King through acts of private and corporate worship and through their manner of living.

Section 4. To provide for preaching, teaching and fostering the growth of the Christian faith throughout the world, to promote missionary work in all places throughout the world, to establish local churches and foster their development, to bring Christian believers to spiritual maturity.

Section 5. To have the right to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise gain, dispose of or use such property, real or chattel, as may be required or beneficial for the good of the Church.

Section 6. To engage in a ministry of teaching and outreach through radio, television, internet, newspaper, and other publications, and every other media of mass communication.

Section 7. To acquire, operate and maintain Bible colleges, church schools, orphanages, group homes, marriage and family disciplining, homes for the aged, and other such benevolent and charitable institutions as may be deemed necessary to fulfill the objectives of this organization.

Section 8. To collect, solicit and accept funds or other subscriptions; to acquire and hold real estate and such other property as the realization of the aforesaid objectives may require.

Section 9.To be a religious corporation without capital stock and which does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profits for any officer, employee, or individual.

Section 10.To pursue the purposes set forth in the Articles of Incorporation of this Corporation.

ARTICLE III STATEMENT OF FAITH

Section 1. The Bible: We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God equally in all parts and without error and our source of supreme revelation from God. II Timothy 3:16-17; I Peter 1:23-25; Hebrews 4:12

Section 2. God: We believe in one God who has revealed Himself in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The Eternal FATHER - Genesis 12:33; Deut. 33:27; Psalms 90:2; Psalms 102:27; I Timothy 1:17. **The Eternal SON** - John. 1:1-2; John. 8:58; Heb. 1:8; I John 1:2; Micah 5:2; Rev. 1:8 **The Eternal SPIRIT** -Heb. 9:14. **The Eternal GODHEAD** -Romans 1:20

Section 3. Jesus The Christ: We believe in the pre-existence, incarnation and virgin birth of Jesus Christ who came into the world to reveal the Father; that Jesus Christ was the Creator of all things, for by Him the worlds were made. John. 1:1-2 & 14; I Tim. 3:16; Acts 7:37-38

Section 4. Christ's Ascension and Immanent Return: We believe in Jesus Christ's sinless life, miracles, death, resurrection and His ascension into Heaven, and His personal return in power and great glory, and in His everlasting Kingdom and dominion.

Acts 1:11; 3:19-21; Daniel 7:14; Revelation 20:4

Section 5. The Creation of Man: We believe that man was created by a direct and immediate act of God. Genesis 1:26-27; 2:4

Section 6. The Fall of Man: We believe that man by transgression fell from a state of righteousness and holiness in which he was first created, into total spiritual depravity, a state of death in trespasses and sins in which he is held as a slave of sin and an enemy of God, being unable to attain divine righteousness by his own efforts, but must be redeemed and delivered by the power of the gospel. Rom 5:12-21; I Cor. 15:1-4

Section 7. Satan: We believe in the reality and personality of Satan, Job 1:7; Matthew 4:1-11 and that he was defeated by Christ through His death, burial and resurrection at Calvary Ephesians 1:19-23; Col. 2:15.

Section 8. Sacraments: We believe that water baptism and the Lord's Supper are the sacraments of the church commanded by God and ordained as a means of grace when received through faith. We believe that water baptism is an essential and necessary part of the "doctrine of baptisms", Hebrews 6:2, performed only upon repentant believers in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and for the remission of sin. (Acts 2:38). This act is to be done by immersion, when possible; and it is the means whereby we receive the new covenant sign of "circumcision of heart". We believe that the Lord's Supper is a sacrament of our redemption by Christ's death and of our hope in His victorious return, as well as a sign of the love that Christians have for each other. Open to all believers who receive it humbly, with a proper spirit and by faith, the Lord's Supper is made a means through which God communicates grace to the heart. Romans 2:28-29; Colossians 2:9-13

Section 9. Grace and Sanctification: We believe that "by grace are ye saved through faith and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not by works lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9) We further believe that the emphasis for a continuous walk in grace should be the emphasis of heart righteousness and purity, believing in the keeping power of God, walking after the Spirit and not after the flesh in a lifestyle that demonstrates the character, standards and convictions of Jesus Christ, not being conformed to the world Jude 24; Romans 8:25; Galatians 5:16-25; Romans 4:1-5; 12:1-2.

Section 10. The Body of Christ: We believe that the Church is the Body of Christ expressed as the church individual, the church local, and the church universal and invisible (all saints of all places and all times united together under one Lord), and that the basis of our fellowship is in Jesus Christ, in the power of the Spirit. Ephesians 2:13-22; 4:3-6; I John 1:6-7 As such, we believe the church to be more than just a building or a gathering of people.

Section 11. Worship: We believe in the practice of worship with one's total being as set forth in the Word of God. We believe in the miraculous use of languages and interpretation of languages in its biblical and historical setting. But it is contrary to the word of God to teach that speaking in an unknown tongue or the gift of tongues is the evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and that of Entire Sanctification. Therefore , to promote orderly worship, only a language readily understood by the congregation is to be used in public worship. Acts 8:14-17; 1 Cor. 12:1-14:40; Gal 5:22-24; Matthew 18:16; Luke 10:1; John 8:18; 1 Corn 14:27-28; Eph 5:18-19; Rev 1:17; Psalm 150; Acts 24:14.

Section 12. Tithing, Offerings, and Giving of Alms: Both Old and New Testament scriptures teach tithing as God's financial plan for the support of the work. These are to be practiced continually by all believers and are outward expressions of the unity of the church, the Body of Christ, as it joins together in support of the work of the Lord. Gen 14:18-20;28:20-22; Prov. 11:24, 25, Mal. 3:8-10; Matt. 23:23; Lu. 11:42; 1 Cor. 16:22; 2 Cor. 8:7-8; 9:6 -9;

Section 13. Discipline: We believe in church discipline administered within the church, administered in a spirit of meekness and confidentiality. The purpose of such discipline is the restoration of the one subject to the discipline and/or the purification of the church. The steps of discipline are one on one private confrontation, private confrontation with witnesses, meeting with the Board of Elders for judgment leading to restoration or separation, and finally, if necessary, exposure to the congregation. (Matt. 18:15-20; Gal. 6:1; Romans 16:17; II John 9-11; I Corinthians 5; II Corinthians 2:6-8; I Timothy 5:20)

Section 14. Marriage: Chemung Christian Fellowship believes that a marriage is to be expressing only in a monogamous lifeline relationship between one man and one women This is the relationship which is divinely designed for the birth and rearing of children and is a covenant union made in the sight of God, taking priority over every other human relationship. The church (the body of believers) is the bride of Christ. The relationship between the church and Christ is a metaphor of how our marriages should be. Gen 1:27-28, 2:18, 20, 23-24; Mal 2:14-16; Matt. 19:4-6; Mark 10:9; Eph. 5:21-33; Heb 13:4; Rev 19:7-8.

In order to preserve the sanctity of marriage, the Pastor of Chemung Christian Fellowship will conduct the Weddings that take place within the church building and on the property. In the event that an exception is requested to have another pastor, the Pastor and the Board of Elders will evaluate the reason for any exception and determine if it should be granted. Believing that it is important for those who wish to get married enter into it well advised, the pastor will talk with the couple and if the pastor deems it profitable there be some marriage counseling, sessions will be arranged.

ARTICLE IV **MEMBERSHIP**

We believe in the following Principles: A committed relationship to be a co-laborer with Christ, testifying to the gospel of God's grace. (Acts 20:24) We believe that commitment begins with the Pastor. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" (John 3:16). Keeping watch over the flock of which the Holy Spirit has

made him the overseer. Being Shepherd of the Church of God , which he bought with his blood. (Act 20:28)

Who can become a Church Member: Anyone 16 years of age or older who has been part of the Church Fellowship for at least 6 months and expresses the evidence of a genuine experience in the New Birth and of a consistent Christian Life. Has followed the Lord in the waters of baptism, has read and subscribes to the tenets of faith as set forth herein and agrees to abide by these By laws, and has made written application to join the church and has been interviewed by the Pastor. New members shall be approved by majority vote of the Church Elders.

Termination of Membership - Membership shall be terminated in the following ways:

- (1) By death.
- (2) By disciplinary action of this church.
- (3) By joining with another church.
- (4) By personal request for name to be removed from church membership.

Responsibility of The Church Member: To be a loyal, living part, adding more to the body than the member is drawing out,(i.e. Using any talents that God has given them in ministry, supporting the church financially as God has prospered them, attend and be actively involved in Church Conferences, etc). To identify personally with the teachings, vision and purpose of this Church and to accept this body as his focus for fellowship, prayer, offerings, breaking of bread, teaching activities and with faithful attendance. (Acts 2:42, 47; Titus 2:15; Psalms 92:13).

ARTICLE V **THE PASTOR**

The church finds its" headship, under the Lord Jesus Christ, in its" Pastor. The Pastor will be evaluated and held accountable to the scriptural standard as set forth in the book of I Timothy, Chapter 3. His primary duty is to preach the living word and in addition he is to have authority to pay, or have paid from corporate funds, all normal bills, and up to, but not to exceed \$1,000.00 at any one time for extra church expenses, giving an accounting to the Treasurer. No person shall be invited to speak, teach or minister in any area of the church without the prior approval of the Pastor.

In the pursuit of a new Pastor - The Elders, shall select a Pastor Search Committee to seek out a Pastor, and to recommend to the Board of Elders their choice. The Pastor Search Committee may offer more than one nominations for the Board of Elders to choose from. The Board of Elders will either affirm the nomination or ask the Search Committee to continue the search. The successful nominee will then be invited to speak at a morning Worship Service. After that the church membership shall have an

affirmation vote at a duly called meeting in accordance with Article IX. The Elders shall bring to the consideration of the church only one name at a time. Election shall be by secret ballot with an affirmative vote of eighty-five percent (85%) of those members present being necessary for a call. After consideration of this vote, the Elders shall proceed with the call of the nominee. If the nominee accepts the call, he will then serve as an intern pastor for one year, upon which the Elders will either recommend that he be hired permanently to the Church Body or the Elders may terminate his employment. The Pastor, thus elected shall serve for three years, at which time the Board of Elders shall recommend to the Church for his recall for an additional three years, or to terminate his employment.

Term of Pastorate: The Pastor will serve for 3 years as designated by the Board of Elders or until his resignation, death, or removal for cause.

Responsibility of the Pastor: We believe the Pastor must remain committed and true to the teaching of Jesus Christ. As shepherd of the local Church his attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ and must promote God's work through love which comes from a pure heart, good conscience and sincere faith.; 1 Tim 1:5 He should do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit; Phil 2:3. His life must bear outward signs of the fruit of the spirit.; Gal 5:22. This commitment as shepherd places him under heavy responsibility to the sheep. He must feed the flock with the Word of God; (1st Peter 5:2) and Lead the flock into all Truth.He will also chair the Board of Elders.

Upon the resignation of the Pastor - A new Pastor shall be called according to the process as outlined above.

Removal for Cause - Upon recommendation by the Board of Elders, the church may dismiss the Pastor for cause. Such action shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, of which the membership has been given two weeks notice. An Elder shall preside at the meeting. The vote to dismiss the Pastor shall be by secret ballot. A quorum will consist of those members present with an affirmative vote of 51% of those present. If the membership votes for dismissal, the termination of pastoral duties shall be effective immediately upon publication of the results of the vote. The Board of Elders will determine Peter 5:2; Acts 20:28; and lead the flock into all Truth; Hebrews 13:9; Isaiah 40:11. He a fair separation package. If the affirmative does not prevail, the same question cannot be presented to the church until the lapse of at least three (3) months from the date of the vote.

Accusation made against the Pastor: Any serious misconduct accusation against the Pastor, by any church member, qualifying for church discipline, must be resolved by: The church member first meeting alone with the Pastor to attempt to reconcile any differences. If the church member feels uncomfortable meeting alone with the Pastor,

the church member may request a member of church leadership to attend the meeting. If reconciliation is not achieved, then the church member will ask two (2) or more members of the church leadership to meet with the member and the Pastor. The church member shall present a written and signed complaint at this meeting. If reconciliation is not made at this point, the matter is to be presented to the Board of Elders for final reconciliation. The Board of Elders shall be the final authority in judging any issue on retention or dismissal of the Pastor.

ARTICLE VI **OFFICERS**

We believe in the following Principles: A committed relationship to be a co-laborer with Christ, testifying to the gospel of God's grace. (Acts 20:24) We believe that commitment begins with the Pastor. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" (John 3:16). Keeping watch over the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made him the overseer. Being Shepherd of the Church of God , which he bought with his blood. (Act 20:28)

Election of Officers: The following officers of the Church shall be elected by the Church Members, for terms of one year, or until their successors are qualified and elected. There shall be a Secretary, Treasurer, Sunday School Superintendent, Music Director and such other officers as the Board of Elders may deem needed.

The Elders shall appoint a nominating committee of five (5) people from the membership. Two (2) Elders may serve on this committee. The Pastor will be an ex-officio member. Positions within the Church must be held by members in good standing in their walk with the Lord and their service to CCF.

The Board of Elders shall nominate Church Elders positions that are up for Election. Two Candidates must be nominated for each Elder position that is up for election. (Normally two positions).

Responsibility of the Secretary: shall do, or cause to have done, the following:
- To write an accurate record [minutes] of the meetings of the Board of Elders; Be custodian of the corporate records; Keep a congregational membership roll; Keep a regularly updated list of all Elders and those Ordained or Commissioned by this Church; and Perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as may from time to time be assigned by the Pastor and the Board of Elders, and have the authority to appoint others to do the church correspondence and the day to day record keeping.

Responsibility of the Treasurer: shall do, or cause to have done, the following:

-Have charge and custody of and be responsible for the receipt, care, investment, disbursement, and disposition of all funds, property, and securities of the corporation subject to such regulations as may be imposed by the Board of Elders; Accept all gifts of money or other personal property on behalf of the corporation, executing such receipts or other documents as necessary;

-Enter or cause to be entered regularly on the books of the corporation and to be kept by him, or under his supervision, full and accurate account of all moneys and obligations received and paid, or incurred for, or on account of the corporation. The treasurer shall exhibit such books at all reasonable times to any member of the Board of Elders on request at the offices of the corporation;

-Deposit or cause to be deposited all moneys in the name of the corporation in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as may be authorized by the Board of Elders; Those funds shall be paid out only on checks of the corporation signed by officers, or those as may be designated by the Board of Elders; See that the books of the corporation are reviewed each year by an "in house" audit committee, within 90 days of the end of the fiscal year, with this audit report given to the Board of Elders;

-Perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Board of Elders; The Treasurer may be required to be bonded for the faithful performance of his or her duties, to the extent the Board of Elders may require.

Responsibilities Of The Board of Elders: The Board of Elders shall be for the purpose of advising, supporting and assisting the Pastor in the oversight of the spiritual and temporal ministry of the church. They shall be Men who lead by example in prayer, worship, teaching, prophesying and performing all the sacraments. They shall have only those duties, rights and responsibilities assigned to them by these By-Laws and the Articles of Incorporation of this corporation. They shall: Pray for the church; Assist the Pastor in the oversight of the flock. Offer counsel and advice about the church to the Pastor; Review and approve the annual budget, which shall constitute approval of all budgeted items, including all compensation. Perform disciplinary functions as specified within these By-Laws; Strive to maintain at all times the vision of the Church under the leadership of the Pastor as under-shepherd, working to maintain an attitude of hearty cooperation and unity of fellowship; and; perform those other tasks and duties as may be assigned by these By-Laws, the Articles of Incorporation, or from time to time, by the Pastor.

Term of Office Of The Board of Elders: The term of each Elder of this Board shall be three years. Elders will be elected by the membership at the annual meeting. The Pastor shall be a permanent member of the Board of Elders and chair the Meetings.

An Elder may succeed himself in office. Each member of the Board of Elders shall be entitled to one vote. There shall be six (6) Elders as Elected by the members of the church at the annual meeting. Terms will be staggered so each annual meeting will have two (2) Elders up for review/appointment. In an event of vacancy the candidate receiving the third most number of votes in the last Annual Church Conference shall fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

ARTICLE VII **GENERAL**

Section 1. The Autonomy Of The Church: This church is intentionally structured as an "Autonomous" and "Indigenous" entity, with no other church or organization having authority or control over it. We believe the Lord Jesus Christ desires every believer and leader to be relational, and accountable to other believers.

Section 2. Determining use of the Church Property:

The use of the Church Property by organizations that are not part of the church ministry shall be reviewed and approved by the Board of Elders. One exception being the Pastor may authorize the use of the property for marriages/funerals that he may be performing

This Church is owned by the Lord Jesus Christ who has entrusted the care of the flock to the leadership he has raised up here. Acts 20:28-31; II Peter 2:1-3; I Timothy 1:20; 6:5; I Cor. 5:1-13; II Thes. 3:6-15; II John 9-11; II Tim. 3:1-5; Titus 3:10-11; Rom. 6:17.

Section 3. Outreach: Members of CCF will be zealous in their efforts to advance the work of the Lord by visitation of both saved and unsaved, to watch over and help one another in brotherly love. Mentoring and private home meeting's will be encouraged to aid in each individuals growth in the ways of the Holy Scriptures.

Section 4. Meeting in Private Homes: The local body will meet together regularly as a whole and in smaller groups in the homes of the members of the congregation. We consider the fellowship of the saints together in the private homes of the members to be an essential expression of the life of faith of the church. Indeed to this end, the Word of God frequently refers to the church as a "household." Matt. 16:13-20, 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-47; I Pet. 4:17; I Tim. 3:15; Eph. 2:19; I Pet. 2:5; Acts 18:8; Rom. 16:5, 10, 11; I Cor. 1:11, 16; 16:15, 19; Phil. 4:22; Col. 4:15; 2 Tim. 1:16; 4:19.

Section 5. Principle Of Harmony: No Christian institution can comply with the plain teaching of Scripture unless unity and harmony predominate within it, no member of the congregation should use any means to incite or engender strife, but shall work in

harmony with the other members of the congregation and the appointed leadership. If there is cause for dissatisfaction, it shall be called to the attention of the Pastor or a member of the Board of Elders. At the discretion of the Pastor or the Board of Elders necessary adjustments shall be made.

Section 6. Resolving Offenses: As per-scripture

If any member of this church feels that there is an offense or misunderstanding with another member, he/she should go to that other member promptly with love in order to resolve any differences. If a man has an offense with a woman, he should meet with her and her husband or other covering to resolve the difference.

If any member has an offense or misunderstanding with any person in leadership, including the Pastor, he/she should go promptly to them in the same manner as with any other member. However, if the member would feel uncomfortable in approaching a leadership person, he/she may request another member of church leadership to accompany him/her for support in meeting with the person in leadership. If an offense cannot be resolved on an individual basis, the two members should meet together with their respective church leaders in order to resolve their differences. Should this effort be unsuccessful in bringing resolution, the members and their area leaders shall meet together with an Elder or the Pastor to resolve the offense. Church leaders shall keep the Pastor informed of offenses which have been brought to them for resolution.

Leadership who have an offense with one another, should go directly to the other person. If the situation is not resolved at this level, the leaders should meet with the Pastor and/or appointed Elders to resolve the offense.

ARTICLE VIII **ASSOCIATION**

CHEMUNG CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP must remain a non-denominational Church. It shall not become a part of a denomination, and shall not be ruled over by any ecclesiastical body other than is herein provided, but may fellowship with other churches, denominations or groups.

ARTICLE IX **Church Meetings**

Worship Services

The church shall meet regularly at least each Sunday morning, for preaching, instruction, evangelism, and for the worship of Almighty God. Any other church meetings, which will be essential in the promotion of the objectives of the church, shall be placed on the church calendar. These meetings will be open for the entire membership of the church and for all people.

Church Conference

The business of the church shall be conducted through two types of meetings:

The Annual Church Conference

The church will assemble each year on or about the end of the fiscal year to approve the budget for the coming year, hear reports from any teams, organizations and ministries of the church, conduct miscellaneous business as needed, and pray for the church. The Church fiscal year shall be May 1st to April 30th.

Special Church Conference

The church will assemble for conference upon the request of the pastor or the Board of Elders. Any church member may submit a request to the pastor or the Board of Elders for a special conference. Special church conference will be announced two weeks prior to the date of the conference through the service announcements and any publication placed in members mail boxes. On rare occasions an emergency may arise making the two-week notice impractical. Should the pastor position be vacant, the Board of Elders will choose among themselves a moderator to call a special church conference.

Quorum

The quorum consists of those who attend the church conference, provided it is a stated meeting or one that has been properly called.

Parliamentary Rules

Roberts' Rules of Order, Revised, is the authority for parliamentary rules of procedure for all church conferences.

ARTICLE X ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT

These By-laws may be adopted, amended or repealed and new By-Laws adopted by vote of a majority of the members of the Board of Elders at any Elders' meeting, except that: A by-law fixing or changing the number of Elders may be adopted, amended or repealed only upon the unanimous vote or written consent of all members of the Board of Elders.