



CONSTITUTION

Revised January, 2016

THE UNION CHURCH OF GUATEMALA

CONSTITUTION

(Revised and adopted January 27, 1974)

(Purpose and Objective statement revised March 19, 2001)

(Amended January 26, 2014, Article VII, Section 1 and Section 4)

(Amended January 24, 2016, Article V, Section 2 and Section 3;

Article VII, Section 1 and Section 4)

ARTICLE I NAME

This organization shall be called "The Union Church of Guatemala" (Iglesia Unión (Guatemala)).

ARTICLE II PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE

The purpose of Union Church is to glorify God among the English-speaking community in Guatemala:

- By encouraging personal, loving, and maturing relationships with Jesus Christ;
- By modeling Christ-like lives;
- By serving the Body of Christ; and
- By ministering to the needs of others.

The Objective of the Union Church of Guatemala is:

In Worship:

To bring glory to God by strengthening corporate worship to be as meaningful as possible to a broad spectrum of English-speaking believers.

In Evangelism:

To bring glory to God by using our God-given individual and corporate gifts to demonstrate God's love and bring people to a growing relationship with Him through Jesus Christ.

In Discipleship:

To bring glory to God by instructing and equipping believers to experience a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and live out that relationship in their world.

In Fellowship:

To bring glory to God by building a Christ-like community where we love and care for each other, bear each other's burdens, call each other to accountability, and have fun.

In Church Administration:

To bring glory to God by continuing to manage our resources with the highest standards of integrity, transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

1. Eligibility

A person may become a member of this Church by presentation of a letter of dimission from any Protestant Church; by solemn affirmation of having been received as a member of a Protestant Church or by declaration of faith in God through Jesus Christ and a loyal purpose to work with others through the Church for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom on earth.

2. Covenant

The covenant which members of this Church make one with another is as follows:

"Thankful for God's abundant goodness, and for His great gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, our Lord, I hereby covenant to seek to know and to do His will, and to promote, as far as I can, the interest of Christ's Kingdom.

"Accepting Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, and the Bible as the Word of God, and believing in the province of private judgment in the interpretation of the Scriptures, I seek fellowship with all who devoutly love the Lord Jesus Christ and adopt His way of discipleship as set forth in the New Testament.

"Realizing that the success of the Church depends upon the consecration of its individual membership, I covenant to attend services, to contribute to its support, to labor to maintain its peace and harmony, and as far as possible, in every way to promote its temporal and spiritual welfare."

3. Dual Membership

If specifically requested, members may affiliate with this congregation without severing their relationship to their home church.

4. Acceptance

Persons who meet the above conditions shall be received for membership by the Board of Elders.

5. Dimission

- a. Letters of dimission to any other Christian Church, or certificates of good standing, may be given upon approval of the Board of Elders.
- b. Members leaving Guatemala permanently may be placed by the Board of Elders upon an inactive list, unless they specifically request otherwise; if they should return to Guatemala, they shall be restored to active membership at their own request. Such persons, moreover, shall be eligible to receive letters of dimission or certificates of good standing.
- c. The names of members may be dropped from the roll by action of the Church Council, upon recommendation of the Board of Elders, either for prolonged absence or for manifest lack of sympathy with the aims of the Church. If at all practical, the members to be dropped will be visited by not less than two members of the Board of Elders previous to taking any action, in order to determine if such action is deemed advisable or is warranted. Such members may be reinstated by the Council upon recommendation of the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE IV BAPTISM

Christian baptism may be administrated according to the form desired by the candidate or, in the case of children, as desired by the parents.

ARTICLE V CHURCH GOVERNMENT

1. The government of this Church is vested in its voting members who are 18 years of age or over, residing in Guatemala, who exercise the right of control in all its affairs.
2. The fiscal year shall end the last day of December of every year.
3. The Church Council shall select the first convenient date after January 1 for the Annual Meeting. The business of the Annual Meeting shall include at least:

- a. The presentation of the annual reports of all officers, boards, committees and organizations, and action thereon;
 - b. The presentation and approval of the Church Budget;
 - c. The election of officers and members of boards and committees.
- 4. Special meetings for business shall be called by the Moderator upon majority vote of the Church Council or the written request of five members, provided that one week's public notice be given of the same, stating the purpose of the meeting.
 - 5. Forty voting members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the Annual Meeting and all special meetings.
 - 6. In all meetings for business the Church shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.
 - 7. In the interim between Church business meetings the Church Council shall have the authority to act for the Church as provided in Article VII, Section 2.

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS

- 1. The Officers of the Church, who shall have power to convene their respective boards and bodies, shall consist of:
 - a. The Minister
 - b. The Moderator
 - c. The Chairman, Board of Elders
 - d. The Chairman, Board of Finance and Administration
 - e. The President, Board of Women's Ministries
- 2. Provision for the election of Officers, their duties, and the fillings of vacancies, shall be delineated in the "Manual of Operations."

ARTICLE VII THE CHURCH COUNCIL

- 1. Composition

The Church Council shall be composed of twenty-three (17) persons, which shall include:

the five officers of the Church,
plus one additional member from the Board of Elders,
three additional members from the Board of Finance and
Administration,
two additional members from the Board of Christian
Education,
two additional officers from the Board of Women's Ministries,
a clerk,
a member-at-large,
an Activities Coordinator, and
a Hospitality Coordinator

The Moderator of the Church shall be the Chairman of the Council.
The Chairman of the Board of Elders shall be the Vice-Chairman
of the Council.

2. Jurisdiction

The Church Council shall be the governing body of the Church in the interim between business meetings. It shall study needs, determine major objectives, determine policies of the Church programs, it shall have authority to approve or disapprove the policies of all Church organizations, and shall seek to correlate the programs of all boards, committees, and organizations into one coordinated program. In as far as it is possible, all new business requiring Council action shall be introduced by or referred to the appropriate committee or Board.

3. Procedures

The Council shall meet monthly. Fifty-one percent of the Council members present in the country of Guatemala at the time of the monthly meeting shall constitute a quorum. It shall hear the reports of committees and boards. Recommendations of such committees and boards shall in all cases first be presented to the Church Council.

4. Nominating Committee

The five officers of the Church (Article VI, Section 1), the Activities Coordinator, and the Chairman of the Board of Christian Education shall sit as a Nominating Committee to present to Council at the January meeting a list of candidates for Church offices, boards, and committees.

5. Observers

Members of the Church are invited to attend Council meetings as observers, with voice, but without vote.

ARTICLE VIII PERMANENT BOARDS

The permanent boards of this Church shall be:

1. The Board of Elders
2. The Board of Finance and Administration
3. The Board of Christian Education
4. The Board of Women's Ministries

The composition and duties of these Boards shall be outlined in the "Manual of Operations."

ARTICLE IX ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

While not subject to control of any ecclesiastical body, this Church shall cultivate the fellowship of other churches and cooperate with them in the work of the Kingdom of God. It shall establish such relations with ecumenical agencies as may be considered desirable.

ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any business meeting of the Church provided that notice of such meeting and of the proposed amendments shall have been given at the morning service of the two preceding Sundays, or provided such notice shall have been mailed to members of the Church at least ten days before the meetings.

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