

2015

Providence Christian School Constitution

The Constitution is the authoritative document which, with the basic principles, indicates the mode or organization of Providence Christian School. The Constitution deals with the structure and guidelines of operation. The document assures an orderly functioning of the organization.

PREAMBLE

We are mindful of God’s will that children be taught the content and practical applications of His Word in every aspect of learning and every activity of life. We firmly believe that the Christian school, in addition to the Christian home and the Christian church, is necessary to carry out our child-training responsibilities in a manner pleasing to God.

The following articles form the basis for the organization, government, and operation of the Providence Christian School.

ARTICLE I NAME

This organization shall be known as “Providence Christian School Association, Inc. of Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Cape Coral, Florida.” (PCS/EPC)

ARTICLE II RELATIONSHIP TO THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Section 1 The Christian School, as a non-profit branch of the Church, shall operate under the provisions of the by-laws and constitution of the Church. No provision in this constitution shall violate or supersede the legal documents, certificate of incorporation, by laws and constitution of the Church.

Section 2 The Christian School Board is given the authority by the session of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to execute the purpose of this constitution through the articles contained herein. The session of the church shall be the final court of appeal and may exercise its right to supervise and review all actions of the Christian School Board.

Section 3 Subject to the oversight of the session as described in Section 1 above, the School Board’s authority shall include the hiring of teachers and other employees required to operate the school; the purchase of equipment unique to the school; the admission and discipline of students; the establishment and implementation of an operating budget such that the church is not financially burdened.

Section 4 Its authority shall not include the ownership of any real or tangible property including that equipment unique to its operation.

ARTICLE III PURPOSE

The purpose of the Christian School Board will be to organize and operate, without profit, as an agency of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, a private Christian school which will give to the youth of the church and the community quality instruction in all subjects together with specific Bible instruction and Christian standards for life; such instruction to be given in accordance with the Doctrinal Statement, the Statement of Faith and Educational objectives, and all other articles found within this constitution.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the purpose for which the Corporation is organized are exclusively religious, charitable, scientific, literary, and educational within the meaning of Section 501©(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law.

ARTICLE IV STATEMENT OF FAITH AND EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

Section 1 Biblical and Doctrinal Standard

We believe that the original autographs of the Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, are the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God, our final and sufficient authority in all matters of faith and practice. Providence Christian School adheres to the tenets of the historic Reformed faith as expressed in the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechism, and/or the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession, and the Canons of Dort.

Section 2 Doctrinal Statement

1. God: We believe that God has revealed himself through the creation, the events of redemptive history, the Scriptures, and his incarnate Son, to be the living and true God, infinite, eternal, unchangeable and perfect in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth.

2. Jesus Christ: We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, who became human, and who was, and continues to be, both God and man in one person forever. He saves his people from their sin and reconciles them to God by uniting them to his perfect life, sacrificial death, and bodily resurrection. Having ascended into heaven, he continues to intercede for his people and to rule over the church and world as Lord over all.

- 3. Holy Spirit:** We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Triune God, who regenerates sinners, indwells believers, enables them to die unto sin and to live Godly lives.
- 4. Humanity**
 - a. Creation and Corruption of Man: We believe that human beings, both male and female, are created in the image of God, as the crown of creation, to have fellowship with God and to rule, under God, over the world that God has made. However, our first parents, Adam and Eve willfully rebelled against and disobeyed God. As a result of this rebellion, everyone is born guilty, corrupt, and in need of salvation.
 - b. Human Sexuality: We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male and female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen. 1:26-27). We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen. 2:18-25). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4). We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matt. 15:18-20); 1 Cor. 6:9-10).
- 5. Salvation:** We believe that Christians are reconciled to God by grace through faith on the basis of the finished work of Christ who satisfied divine justice and removed the condemnation they deserved. In this state they are kept in Christ by the power of God.
- 6. Sovereignty of God:** We affirm that God from all eternity, did, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely, and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass.
- 7. Providence of God:** The Scriptures teach that God’s works of providence are his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving of and governing of all his creatures and all their actions. There is nothing that takes place, either great or small, that is outside of God’s control or purpose.
- 8. The Church:** We believe that God by his Word and Spirit creates one church consisting of both Old Testament and New Testament believers who are saved by grace through faith. God calls sinners out of the whole human race into the fellowship of Christ’s body in which the Holy Spirit dwells. The church is called by Christ to offer acceptable worship to God, to serve him by preaching

the gospel and making disciples of all nations, to provide daily pastoral care, and to relieve human distress and need.

9. Prayer: We believe that God has given us the gift, privilege, and responsibility of prayer so that we are to speak to the Father through the mediatorship of Christ and with the assistance of the Holy Spirit.

10. Christ's Return: We believe that Christ is ruling now over the Church and the world through his Word and Spirit, and that God's purposes will be completed when Christ returns to judge the living and the dead and to usher in the New Heaven and the New Earth. This position accommodates several traditional views of the millennial reign of Christians including historic premillennialism, classic postmillennialism and amillennialism.

Section 3 Educational Objectives

Mission Statement: Providence Christian School seeks to glorify God through academic excellence supported by a Biblical Reformed worldview, facilitating children's growth in knowledge, wisdom, and grace. "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever" (Rom. 11:36).

Vision Statement: Providence Christian School surrounds its students in a covenantal partnership between parents, school employees, and church community, and nurtures students' unique talents as creative, rational image-bearers of God. The rigorous course of academic study engages students in critical analysis and equips them to rightly discern and apply God's truth in all aspects of life, with the hope that graduates will continue growing in their love for Christ, passionately pursuing truth, and serving others.

ARTICLE V BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1 The Board of Directors shall direct and conduct the affairs of the Christian School and annually recommend nominees for the Board to the Session for their review and approval. The Board will consist of 6 to 9 members appointed by the session and not more than two may be non-EPC members. The Board membership shall include (at least) one active elder and one active deacon of EPC. Members will declare in writing their unconditional acceptance of the statement of purpose and statement of faith by signing the Statement of Belief and Allegiance as set forth in the Board's policy manual.

- Section 2 The term of office will be three (3) years. Terms will expire on July 31. Board members may succeed themselves.
- Section 3 Vacancies occurring during the year shall be filled by appointment of the church session after recommendations by the school Board – unless the Board fails to act.
- Section 4 The Board of Directors shall normally hold at least one stated meeting every six weeks. Fifty percent, not counting ex officio members, shall constitute a quorum.
- Section 5 All Board members should be present at all Board meetings.
- Section 6 Board members may be removed from the Board at any time by the church session.

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS OF THE BOARD AND THEIR DUTIES

- Section 1 At the first Board meeting of the new school year, the Board shall elect the following four officers: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- Section 2 It shall be the duty of the chairman to preside at all meetings of the Board and to enforce the provisions of the constitution. He shall establish and direct the committees set forth in Article VIII and appoint committee chairman from the Board membership. The chairman is an ex officio member of all committees and shall be notified of all meetings.
- Section 3 The vice-chairman shall assist the chairman whenever possible in the discharge of his duties. In the absence of the chairman, the vice-chairman shall take his place.
- Section 4 The secretary shall take care of all official documents of the Board, he shall conduct all correspondence, and he shall enter into the records of the Board the minutes of all meetings of the Board after they have been approved; and he shall maintain a complete and official set of all such minutes.
- Section 5 The treasurer is responsible for the Christian school's funds and is to authorize all disbursements. All monies received by him shall be deposited in the name of the school and disbursements shall be made by check, except payments from

petty cash. The Board must approve non-budgeted items. The treasurer shall report regarding the finances of the school at the stated meetings of the Board.

ARTICLE VII THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

- Section 1 The School Administrator shall report to the Board of Directors and serves in three roles: (1) as an advisor to the School Board, (2) as the manager of and with full authority over all aspects of Providence Christian School pursuant to the policies adopted by the Board of Directors, and (3) as the executive officer over all personnel.
- Section 2 All employees and volunteer personnel shall be recommended for employment or position by the School Administrator and shall report ultimately to the School Administrator.
- Section 3 The School Administrator shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors and all committees, but shall not chair any committee or hold any office of the Board of Providence Christian School.
- Section 4 The School Administrator shall coordinate with the Board Chair in preparing and submitting Board Meeting Agendas and Committee reports, as well as, a written or oral report on the administrative duties performed between regularly scheduled meetings of the Board.

ARTICLE VIII COMMITTEES AND THEIR DUTIES

- Section 1 The Chairman of the Board of Directors shall establish committees and shall appoint chairmen, from the Board membership, as the board deems necessary.
- Section 2 Committee chairmen shall have liberty to appoint their own committees subject to approval of the Board. Committee members can be Board members, EPC members, Providence Christian School parents, members of the Parent Teacher Fellowship, and others at the discretion of the Committee Chairman.
- Section 3 The Chairman of the Board shall be an ex officio member of all committees and shall be informed of all committee meetings.
- Section 4 The school administrator shall be an ex officio member of all committees and shall be informed of all committee meetings.

ARTICLE IX FACULTY AND STAFF

- Section 1 The Board shall appoint all employed personnel annually. All employees shall be appointed for such time, under such conditions, and upon such salary as to the Board may determine.
- Section 2 All personnel shall be appointed to serve under a written contract that specifies salary to be received and services to be rendered. All faculty and staff shall receive their salary semi-monthly for the school year.
- Section 3 All full time teachers must meet accreditation standards.
- Section 4 All members of the teaching staff must declare, in writing, their unconditional acceptance of the Statement of Faith and Educational Objectives as recorded in Article IV of this Constitution, which includes the School's adopted Vision and Mission, and highlights the School's Biblical and Doctrinal Standards. Teachers shall be members in good standing of their churches.
- Section 5 This article of the Constitution, except for this section, is a part of all contracts entered into with all faculty and staff.

ARTICLE X ADMISSIONS POLICY

- Section 1 Admission of all students shall be subject to the approval of the Board, and/or administration.
- Section 2 In accordance with Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, The Providence Christian School Association will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the school under its control. The School will admit students of any race to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students, and will not discriminate on the basis of race in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic or other school-administered programs.
- Section 3 The above Non-Discrimination policy will be published each year in the minutes of the July Board meeting.
- Section 4 First priority for admission will be given to presently enrolled students and siblings, second priority to Evangelical Presbyterian Church families, third

priority to regular-visiting church families, fourth priority to new families.
Revised and approved PCS (6-26-97) and EPC Session (8-97).

Section 5 Because of Common Grace and the fact that the School is a ministry of Evangelical Presbyterian Church, the school should have an admissions policy that will allow for Christian children from parents of the church, i.e. covenant children, children from other Christian homes, and a limited number of special cases of children from unchurched home who must meet the spiritual, academic, and behavioral standards of the school. In admitting children from unchurched homes, parents must agree in writing to follow the school's policies and procedures prior to admission.

ARTICLE XI PARENT TEACHER FELLOWSHIP

Section 1 Membership in the Parent Teacher Fellowship is open to all parents or guardians of students enrolled in Providence Christian School, all teachers, all board members, and all interested friends. Enrollment in membership shall be at the first meeting of the school year when dues shall be payable.

Section 2 A PTF meeting will be held once each semester and/or as needed. At the last meeting of the school year, the PTF officers will be elected from that current year's membership.

ARTICLE XII PROCEDURE FOR GRIEVANCES

Section 1 Parents and Guardians are expected to uphold the school, teachers, and administration in prayer. Concerned parents should first discuss any problem that arises with the student's teacher. If a resolution cannot be reached, the concerned parents and/or teacher can then raise the issue with the school administration. An appeal may be made to the PCS School Board as a last resort.

ARTICLE XIII AMENDMENTS

Section 1 Amendments to this constitution may be made by a vote of two-thirds majority of the School Board, subject to approval by the session of the church. The amendment shall have been proposed and discussed in a stated meeting of the School Board and not voted upon until the next stated meeting of the School Board.

Section 2 Written notice must be given to all Board members concerning any constitutional changes at least two weeks prior to the meeting at which it will be voted upon.