

ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION AND BI-LAWS OF FAMILY CIRCLE

NEW CALLING CHRISTIAN CHURCH

11 S. LONG ST., BONNE TERRE, MO, 63628



PREAMBLE: AN INTRODUCTION

The Antecedent Orthodox Church is the organizing and corporate body of all churches, dioceses, and parishes which identify themselves as Antecedent Orthodox. Consistent with the policies of the corporate church, her board of directors, patriarch, and bishops, all individual parishes operating under her jurisdiction shall possess a church council consisting of or open to all baptized and registered members of that said parish. These councils are known as Family Circles and each one operates slightly different depending on what the congregation lays down in their first, organizing meeting after the parish is first opened. The rules laid down in this meeting are known as Family Circle Bi-Laws and they determine the limits of the church council's authority, how frequently it shall meet, and what its rules of operation (rules of order) shall be. This document shall lay out the bi-laws for the Family Circle of the parish of New Calling, located in Bonne Terre, MO.

ARTICLE ONE: RULES OF AUTHORITY

1. Family Circle shall be responsible for determining the Church's mission and to have oversight of the Church's day-to-day operation. Therefore, Family Circle's authority shall be binding on all aspects of the Church, her finances, programs, intellectual properties, employees, and resources, save that regarding what constitutes morals and doctrine (hereafter known as "church teaching").
 - a. Family Circle shall neither be able to define church teaching, nor shall any vote in the affirmative made by Family Circle which would cause any member of the Church, the Church's real or intellectual property, assets, employees, or tax-exempt privileges to act in any way contrary to church teaching.
 - b. The bishop of each Antecedent Orthodox Church's parish shall be the final court of appeals, exempting only the council of archbishops or patriarch, on what defines church teaching. Family Circle shall in no way act, in whole or in part, either to oppose the bishop on matters of church teaching or to attempt to overrule him.

- c. Should Family Circle ever, by accident or design, vote in the affirmative on a matter which is later found by the bishop of their parish to be not in keeping with church teaching, the bishop has the right to veto and overrule Family Circle, regardless of percentage of majority.
2. The Bi-Laws of New Calling Christian Church's Family Circle may only be changed by majority vote during a valid Family Circle meeting, whereat the secretary, primary chair, and minimum quorum of church members are present.
3. No change to the New Calling Christian Church's Family Circle's Bi-Laws shall be held binding until the proposed change has been submitted to the diocesan bishop and received bishopric assent (approval).
4. All questions coming before Family Circle shall be decided upon by a simple majority vote and shall never require more than one member, with the approval of the chair, to move any item.
5. Family Circle reserves the right to overturn its own decisions.
 - a. Members of Family Circle, whether they are clergy or laypeople, reserve the right via properly submitted and duly processed Family Circle request to reintroduce questions already decided upon by Family Circle for re-evaluation by the council at a later date.

ARTICLE TWO: RULES OF OPERATION

1. A valid meeting shall be defined by these bi-laws as the following: an official gathering of Family Circle whereat all officers of the council are gathered and a minimum quorum of registered members are present and the chair or leading officer has called the meeting to order and thereafter has adjourned the meeting to be ended.
 - a. No meeting shall be held valid and no acts of Family Circle at a meeting shall be binding unless the session (the time after the chair calls the meeting into session but before an adjournment; this is opposed to a recess, which can be for any frame of time) of Family Circle has been officially adjourned by the chair or leading officers.
 - b. No meeting shall be held as valid if the secretary or an appointed substitute is not present to record the events of that meeting.
 - c. No meeting of Family Circle shall be held valid unless a minimum quorum of one-third of the registered members of Family Circle and the secretary or appointed substitute and the chair or chief officer is present.
 - d. No meeting of Family Circle shall be held as valid unless it be called into official session at the Church's main location, notwithstanding a Family Circle vote to the contrary in the previous session of Family Circle.
2. The chair shall be defined as the following: the chief and presiding officer of a Family Circle council who is responsible for keeping order and controls meetings from the beginning to the end.
 - a. The chair shall be empowered to call into order and adjourn meetings, to recognize speakers, or to deny their recognition to the floor at his discretion. He shall have the power to interpret and enforce rules of order at his discretion and to advice members upon them.

- b. The chair shall have the responsibility of counting and reporting votes in the negative or affirmative to the secretary for recording.
 - c. The chair shall be empowered to break any ties which arise in Family Circle by voting a second time as he sees fit.
 - d. Notwithstanding any other provision allowed by these bi-laws, the head priest or diocesan bishop (when present at the parish) shall hold the position of chair at all Family Circle meetings.
 - e. In the event that the head priest or bishop is not present, he may, if he chooses, appoint another to serve as chair at any Family Circle meeting. In that event, the appointee shall be chair until such a time that the head priest or bishop returns.
 - f. In the event that the head priest or bishop is not present and has not appointed a substitute chief officer as is by II-2-E, Family Circle reserves the right to elect among themselves by affirmative majority vote, recorded by the secretary, a chief officer to serve for the duration of the absence of the head priest or bishop.
3. Family Circle meetings shall be scheduled no less than once a month by the church secretary.
 - a. This provision shall not infringe upon the right of Family Circle by majority vote in the affirmative, recorded by the secretary held in a valid meeting, to give permission to skip a month or a predetermined period of time.
4. No question (binding vote) may be brought before Family Circle without it first being submitted in due process to the church secretary before the next valid session of Family Circle is opened by the chair.
 - a. The church secretary, notwithstanding other provisions of these bi-laws, shall be responsible for determining an appropriate method for members to submit questions to Family Circle and for scheduling appropriate dates for Family Circle meetings and for ordering by method of priority the questions to come before Family Circle.
 - i. A question given lower priority by the secretary, even if submitted first, may be scheduled behind questions given higher priority.
5. A "baptized" member of the Church shall be defined as any member that has been duly baptized by a priest or bishop of the Antecedent Orthodox Church.
6. A "registered" member of the Church shall be defined as the following: any member which has submitted their name in writing to the secretary and been approved by the head priest or diocesan bishop for membership in the Antecedent Orthodox Church.
7. A member in good-standing shall be defined as the following: any registered member of the Church which gives in tithe at least \$10.00 a month or which donates at least one hour of time a month in service to the Church.
8. Only registered, good-standing members of the Church may vote in Family Circle.
9. Only those members which are present at the time that a question is called before Family Circle may vote upon that question.
 - a. This rule shall in no way infringe upon the right of a member to submit a proxy voting form to the secretary before the opening of a valid Family Circle meeting.
 - b. Proxy voting forms shall give an existing member another vote, the vote of the absent, signing member, but shall not bind any given member to vote in a particular way.

10. Only one member of Family Circle may have the floor at a time and while having the floor, they have the ability to speak, invite others to speak, or engage in exchanges with other members.
 - a. No member not having the floor may speak without being recognized by the chair or invited to speak by the person having the floor.
 - b. Rule II-10 and its sub-clauses shall in no way infringe upon the right of the chair to take control of the floor from any member at any time or for the chair to impose time limits for speeches upon any member possessing the floor.
11. Guest members of the Church (that is members not baptized nor registered in good-standing) may attend and be recognized by the chair to speak on the floor, but shall not be allowed to vote on any question.