



# AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

"AFFIRMING OUR LGBTQ+ FAMILY WITH CHRIST-CENTERED FELLOWSHIP, RECONCILIATION AND EDUCATION"

Affirming Christian Fellowship Bylaws  
June 2023

## BYLAWS

### INTRODUCTION

God raised up this fellowship of churches, ministers, and believers as a special witness. The Evangelical Network (TEN) was officially launched in 1988 as a loosely knit network of individual believers who were evangelical in their belief system. During the annual TEN-weekend conference in Phoenix in February 1994, TEN reorganized into a fellowship of independent churches, ministries, and Christian workers. In 2023, the affiliates voted to change the name of the organization to **Affirming Christian Fellowship**. The remainder of the document will refer to **Affirming Christian Fellowship** also known as **ACF**.

The Bylaws contained in this booklet are the operating structure of this fellowship. They are not infallible and are subject to periodic revision.

After reading through this booklet, those persons and churches desiring more information should contact us at:

Affirming Christian Fellowship  
P. O. Box 87761  
Tucson, AZ 85754

[WWW.ACF.LGBT](http://WWW.ACF.LGBT)

[Info@acf.lgbt](mailto:Info@acf.lgbt)

## THE ACF BYLAWS

ACF is a fellowship of Bible believing churches, ministries, Christian workers, and individual believers bound together by a common shared faith united in purpose and witness. This fellowship has been called forth to glorify God, to defend the historic biblical truth, and to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel to all people, with a special calling to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, (LGBT) community, by calling forth lost men and women unto repentance, personal faith, and discipleship in Jesus Christ as only Savior and Lord.

The network shall operate within the meaning of Section 170 (b) (1) (A) (i) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 and shall be organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, or superseding section.

### I. NAME

The official name of this body of believers is – **Affirming Christian Fellowship** usually referred to simply as **ACF**.

### II. OFFICES

- A. This fellowship is incorporated under the laws of the State of Arizona.
- B. This Corporation may also have offices at such other places as the Board of Directors may from time to time appoint, or the purposes of this Corporation may require.

### III. OBJECTIVES

- A. Serve as a fellowship of independent, autonomous local churches, ministries, Christian workers, and individual believers.
- B. Cooperate in joint ventures to accomplish together that, which cannot be done alone.
- C. Develop a strong outreach effort through evangelism and united mission.
- D. Adhere to the fundamentals of the historic biblical faith.
- E. Pool our resources in order to avoid duplication of effort.
- F. Actively combat various phobias, as they exist in the Christian community.
- G. Promote holiness through Godly Christian living.
- H. Give necessary aid, encouragement, comfort, instruction, guidance, protection, and correction to Affiliates.
- I. Sponsor opportunities that provide continuing Christian education.
- J. Recognize Christian workers through the process of affiliation.
- K. Coordinate national and international outreach efforts.

#### IV. AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP STATEMENT OF FAITH

- We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.
- There is one true God eternally existent in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.
- We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful people, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
- We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
- We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
- We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- We believe that all who seek to live faithfully regardless of ability, age, class, ethnicity, gender, gender-identity, race or sexual orientation are full participants in the Body of Christ. We welcome and affirm all into the life of the church.

#### V. AFFILIATION

A. Affiliation is dependent upon the desire to carry out the purposes and goals of this body. Acceptance of Affirming Christian Fellowship's Confession of Faith and agreement to abide by and function within the framework of these Bylaws is expected of all affiliates.

B. The classifications of affiliation with ACF are:

- 1) Local Churches are assemblies of believers who regularly assemble together for prayer, praise, worship, breaking bread, fellowship, study of the scriptures and outreach.
- 2) Ministries are group outreaches not classified as local churches. A ministry has its own adopted Bylaws, and statement of purpose and mission.
- 3) Christian Workers are duly licensed and/or ordained pastoral ministers, evangelists, missionaries, chaplains, and/or teachers, elders, ministers of music, et. al.
- 4) Non-Voting Affiliates are any affiliates which have past due affiliation dues. Non-voting affiliates will be reinstated to voting status when their dues are current.

C. Procedures for Affiliation

I. All candidates for affiliation must:

- a. Subscribe to "The ACF Confession of Faith."
- b. Agree with these Bylaws.
- c. Complete a "Request for ACF Affiliation" application through the ACF Website.
- d. Churches and Ministries must provide proof of articles of incorporation, bylaws, and/or statement of faith.
- e. Affirming Christian Fellowship Board of Directors will determine initial approval for affiliation. Upon approval by the Board of Directors a voting ballot with a comment section will be forwarded to all current affiliates. Affiliates should vote and provide any comments to the Board of Directors by the date provided in the ballot.

Note: If questions arise as to eligibility for affiliation; those questions must be presented in writing with the returned ballot. The Board of Directors will then review the application and interview the pastor of the applying church. It will be the responsibility of the Board of Directors to recommend for affiliation or hold the application until further review can be made.

- f. Candidates for affiliation must receive seventy-five percent of the returned votes.
- g. All candidates will be notified regarding their approval upon completion of voting.
- h. Once an affiliation application is approved and the applicant is notified, dues, if not submitted at the time of application, must be submitted within 90 days. Applications that do not indicate paid dues within 90 days will be voided and should said applicants wish to pursue affiliation at a later date they will need to resubmit an application and dues.
- i. New works that have not yet written their articles of incorporation, bylaws, or statement of faith, will be granted affiliation status as a "home mission" and not be eligible for voting privileges.

- 2. The Secretary will provide a list of all current affiliates prior to the Annual General Assembly.

#### D. Dues and Non-Payment of Dues

- 1. Affiliates- Churches/Ministries/Christian Workers will be subject to dues as follows:
  - a. Churches – Church affiliates will pay dues each year as established at the annual general assembly.
  - b. Ministry affiliates will pay annual dues each year as established at the annual general assembly.
  - c. Christian Worker affiliates will pay annual dues each year as established at the annual general assembly.
- 2. Non-Payment of Dues
  - a. First Year – No voting rights
  - b. Second Year – No voting rights
    - o Board of Directors will contact and try to resolve any issues.
  - c. Third Year – Removal from affiliation
    - A written notice will be sent by the Board of Directors and will provide affiliate with the right to appeal removal with just cause.
    - The appeal will be handled by the ACF Board of Directors
    - The ACF Board of Directors will make the determination of just-cause and if approved reinstatement.
- 3. Waiver of Dues
  - a. The Board of Directors shall have the ability and right to waive annual dues for an affiliate in times of extreme need.
  - b. Such times of extreme need shall be defined as times when an affiliate is unable to pay dues because of financial stress related to extenuating circumstances,
  - c. The Board of Directors may waive dues for a given affiliate for up to two years in extreme cases.

### VII. AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. The ACF Board of Directors includes a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and additional Members-At-Large. Board of Directors members will be elected annually prior to the annual conference. All Board of Directors members shall serve three-year terms, with terms endings staggered.
- B. Persons eligible to be elected to the Board of Directors must be members in good standing of affiliated churches or ministries, or affiliated Christian Workers, and must accept and adhere to

ACF's Statement of Faith and these Bylaws.

- C. All Board of Directors members shall be eligible for re-election without a prescribed number of terms.
- D. A quorum shall consist of three-fourths (3/4) of the Board of Directors members. A simple majority of the members present shall pass all motions before the Board of Directors.
- E. The Board of Directors meets at times decided upon by the Board of Directors itself. Special Board of Directors meetings may be called by the President or by two-thirds of the members of the Board of Directors.
- F. The President serves as moderator of the Board of Directors.
- G. The Board of Directors has no legislative powers over ACF affiliates.
- H. The Board of Directors seeks to coordinate the mission, ministry and work of ACF. It is entrusted to carry out the will of the Annual Assembly.
- I. The Board of Directors may establish committees as needed.
- J. The Board of Directors oversees the budget as directed by the Annual Assembly.
- K. The Board of Directors keeps an accurate and up-to-date listing of all ACF affiliates.
- L. Should a vacancy on the Board of Directors occur (other than the President), the remaining Board of Director members shall fill the position with a member in good standing from the list of affiliates. This appointment shall remain in effect until the next Annual Assembly.
- M. Should the President's position become vacant, the Secretary will serve in that capacity until a replacement of the President can be duly elected at the next scheduled Annual Assembly.
- N. Board of Directors Members once elected must agree to become monthly pledge partners, if they are not such at the time of election.

#### **VIII. PRESIDENT**

- A. The person selected for this position must be fully dedicated to the ongoing development and expansion of ACF.
- B. The President shall oversee the direction and mission of ACF.

#### **IX. SECRETARY**

- A. The Secretary will keep accurate minutes of all Annual Assembly business sessions as well as all Board of Directors sessions.
- B. The Secretary must work in close cooperation with the President and perform such duties as may be prescribed by the President, Board of Directors and Annual Assembly.

#### **X. TREASURER**

- A. The Treasurer will administer the funds of ACF as established by the budget adopted by the Annual Assembly and directed by the President and the Board of Directors.
- B. An accurate record will be kept of all giving to ACF.
- C. An independent audit of the books of ACF shall be conducted at least bi-annually

## **XI. THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY AND VOTING PROCESS**

A. Once each year an Annual Assembly shall convene for:

1. Prayer, praise, and worship
2. Fellowship and communication
3. Conducting necessary business
4. Education and equipping
5. Edification, challenge, and encouragement

B. Voting Delegates

1. Affiliated churches are entitled to be represented by three (3) delegates chosen by their local church. This number excludes affiliated Christian Workers belonging to those churches.
2. Each affiliated Ministry is entitled to one (1) delegate.
3. Each affiliated Christian Worker has one (1) vote.
4. Each member of the ACF Board of Directors has one (1) vote.
5. In the case where a person's status overlaps (e.g., an affiliate Christian Worker serving on the Board of Directors, that person shall only have one (1) vote.

C. The ACF Board of Directors will set the date and location of each Annual Assembly.

D. The President of ACF shall serve as the Moderator of the Annual Assembly.

E. Voting shall be conducted by electronic ballot by each delegate appointed by a church affiliate, each ministry, Christian worker, and board member. A quorum shall consist of a vote of a minimum of fifty-one percent of the delegates eligible to vote. A simple majority of those voting delegates shall pass all motions.

## **XII. COMMITTEES**

Committees shall be established, appointed, and serve at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

- A. Committees shall report to the Board of Directors.
- B. Each Committee shall include at least one Board of Directors member.
- C. The Board of Directors and/or Committee shall appoint committee members.

## **XIII. AMENDMENTS**

A simple majority of eligible delegates shall approve all amendments to these bylaws.