

**THE CONSTITUTION  
OF  
THE UNITED OROMO EVANGELICAL CHURCHES,INC.**

**Preamble**

In confident reliance upon the Holy Spirit by whom we are drawn to God and to one another; believing in one holy, universal, and apostolic Church of which Jesus Christ is the Head; mindful of our inadequacy, but with unwavering conviction concerning the destiny and duty of the Church: We the United Oromo Evangelical Churches (UOEC) approve this Constitution, in order to serve the Triune God more effectively; we dedicate ourselves anew to proclaim the Gospel of forgiveness and life everlasting through Jesus Christ our Lord in word and deed among the Oromo in Diaspora and Oromia as well as among other nations throughout the world (Matthew 28:18-20).

**ARTICLE 1**

**NAME**

The name of this organization shall be: The United Oromo Evangelical Churches (UOEC).

**ARTICLE 2**

**LOCATION OF ITS OFFICE**

The principal seat of the UOEC shall be in the State of Minnesota, USA. The UOEC shall have other regional offices as they become necessary.

**ARTICLE 3**

**DOCTRINAL BASIS**

**Section 1**

The UOEC affirms all the canonical Books of the Old and New Testaments as divinely inspired and authoritative Word of God and submits to them as *the only infallible authority in all matters of faith and life*.

**Section 2**

The UOEC subscribes to the three Ecumenical Creeds: the Apostles Creed, the Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creed, based on the Holy Scriptures, formulated and affirmed by the Early Church Fathers. "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the

saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone” (Ephesians 2:19-20).

### **Section 3**

The UOEC affirms faith in the One Almighty God, eternally existent in three persons, Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.

## **ARTICLE 4**

### **AIM AND PURPOSE**

#### **Section 1**

The UOEC seeks to focus on its aim and purpose to the end that the Triune God may be fully known among people through a faithful ministry of Word and Sacraments. The UOEC dedicates itself to bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20), be it in its pulpit and public, for the salvation of those who have not yet come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The UOEC pledges to preserve and extend the Christian faith in its fullness and purity.

#### **Section 2**

Based on the word of God, the UOEC pledges to stand with the poor and the powerless and advocates for peace and justice in society.

#### **Section 3**

Coordinates support for the Oromo in Diaspora and Oromia in their social status and economical needs.

#### **Section 4**

Contact and encourage prayer groups and individual Christian families in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe and North America and other parts of the world to establish Christian congregations.

#### **Section 5**

The UOEC shall have regional and continental chapters as need arise to facilitate and enhance its aim and mission.

## **ARTICLE 5**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in the UOEC is open to all Oromo Speaking Evangelical Churches and Fellowships which:

- (1) Has been established as Oromo Speaking Evangelical Church and/or Fellowship.
- (2) Accepts Articles 3 and 11 of the Constitution of the UOEC
- (3) Has adopted Afaan Oromo as main worship language.

The details shall be specified in the By-Laws

## **ARTICLE 6**

### **MEETINGS**

#### **Section 1**

The UOEC shall have an annual convention. This annual convention is constituted of only duly authorized delegates from member Churches and Fellowships. The delegates make up the Council of UOEC.

#### **Section 2**

The President of the UOEC may call extra-ordinary meetings of the Council if and when it seems necessary noting the time and place of the meeting.

#### **Section 3**

Should an extra-ordinary meeting of the Council become necessary the President shall notify all member Churches and Fellowships at least two months ahead of the scheduled meeting.

#### **Section 4**

Simple majority (50% + 1) constitutes the quorum at both the regular and special meetings of the Council except for the amendment of Constitution and By-Laws which require two-thirds majority.

**ARTICLE 7**  
**GOVERNANCE**

**Section 1**

The Council is the highest governing organ of the UOEC.

**Section 2**

The management of the UOEC shall be the responsibility of the Board consisting of five persons: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and one other member.

**Section 3**

The powers, authorities and duties of the Council and the Board, and all other matters shall be specified in the By-Laws.

**Section 4**

The UOEC pledges to use its authority, power, and resources to assist its member Churches and Fellowships as much as possible if and when assistance is requested.

**ARTICLE 8**  
**ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The UOEC shall have the following line of authority

1. The Council
2. The Board – responsible to the Council
3. The Executive Committee – responsible to the Board
4. The Auditing and Regulatory Committee – responsible to the Council
5. Nominating Committee – responsible to the Council
6. Advocacy Ministry Team – responsible to the Council and closely works with the Board
7. Commissions, Committees, Task Forces – responsible to the Council and or to the Board

**ARTICLE 9**  
**RESPONSIBILITIES AND MANAGEMENT OF THE UOEC**

**Section 1**

The UOEC shall have only such powers as required by the law and are consistent with the foregoing purposes including: acquiring and receiving funds and property of every kind and nature whatsoever, whether by purchase or conveyance, lease gift, grants, bequest and legacy; to

own, hold, expend, make gifts, grants and contributions; and to convey, transfer and dispose of any funds and property and the income therefrom.

### **Section 2**

The UOEC shall have such other powers which are consistent with foregoing purposes and which are afforded to this organization by Minnesota Nonprofit statute.

### **Section 3**

All the powers of the UOEC shall be exercised only so that its operations shall be exclusively within the contemplation of an exempt organization under 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as amended or corresponding section of any future Federal Tax Code.

### **Section 4**

No part of the net earnings of the UOEC shall directly be distributable to its members, trustees, officers or other private persons. The UOEC shall authorize payments of reasonable compensation for services rendered as well as for furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article 4.

### **Section 5**

The UOEC as an organization shall not participate in or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

### **Section 6**

The UOEC shall not carry on any other activities besides what has been stated in this Constitution and which corporations exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code do not carry out, or corresponding section of any future Federal Tax Code.

## **ARTICLE 10**

### **SOURCE OF INCOME**

- Annual membership fee from the UOEC member Churches and Fellowships.
- Donations from charitable organizations and individuals.
- Income from fund raising efforts.
- 50% of offering collected at the Annual Spiritual Conference.

## **ARTICLE 11**

### **RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER ENTITIES**

The UOEC may establish and maintain relationship with Churches, Church affiliated and humanitarian Organizations that agree with Article 3 of this Constitution and uphold the authority of Scriptures, especially with regard to divinely instituted holy matrimony and the Biblical directives regarding family values and human sexuality, and that marriage between one man and one woman is an institution created, sanctified and blessed by God (Genesis 1:26-28; Matthew 19:4-5; Ephesians 5:31-32; Hebrews 13:4; Romans 1:26-28). Thus, Churches and Fellowships seeking membership in the UOEC are required to strictly adhere to this Article and shall not be in partnership with any of those entities which teach and preach contrary to the Scriptures, in order to be eligible for membership in the UOEC.

## **ARTICLE 12**

### **CONFLICT RESOLUTIONS**

#### **Section 1**

The UOEC commits itself to use its authority, power, and resources both to assist its member Churches and Fellowships to resolve when disagreements arise among factions within the UOEC member Churches or Fellowships following the examples set for us by our Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew chapter 18:15-17 as well as other relevant passages in the Bible to resolve conflicts.

#### **Section 2**

When disagreement arises on substantive issues among the members of UOEC member Churches or Fellowships, and brought to the attention of the UOEC, the Board will encourage them to resolve the issue amicably and make peace.

#### **Section 3**

If they fail to resolve the issue(s) amicably among themselves, the UOEC Board, in consultation with that Church or Fellowship, will assign a Task Force or ask the neighboring UOEC member Church or Fellowship to investigate the causes of disagreement and try to mediate between the disagreeing faction groups and report the outcome to the concerned bodies.

#### **Section 4**

In the event the mediation fails to resolve the issue(s), the UOEC Council shall establish Arbitration Committee made up of three respected senior individuals to resolve the conflict by arbitration. The conflicting individuals or groups shall be mandated to accept the decision of the

Arbitration Committee in order to maintain peace and unity of the Body of Christ, the Church. The Arbitration Committee shall report the result to the Council and final decision shall be made.

## **ARTICLE 13**

### **DESOLUTION OF THE UOEC**

The UOEC may be dissolved if and when more than two-thirds of its members agree to do so. In the event that UOEC dissolves, its movable and immovable properties shall be donated to a similar organization upon the decision of the majority of the UOEC Council at its regular meeting.

## **ARTICLE 14**

### **BY-LAWS**

The UOEC shall have By-Laws based on this Constitution.

## **ARTICLE 15**

### **AMENDMENTS**

#### **Section 1**

This Constitution may be amended with the exception of Articles 3 and 11 by two-thirds majority vote of member Churches and Fellowships.

#### **Section 2**

Changes to this Constitution may be made at any regular business meeting of the UOEC provided that copies of each amendment have been distributed to the member Churches and Fellowships in writing two months prior to the meeting of the Council.

## **ARTICLE 16**

### **ADOPTION**

This Constitution shall be considered adopted and goes into immediate effect when two-thirds of the voting member Churches and Fellowships vote in favor and affix their signatures thereupon.