

## **ENOLA FIRST CHURCH OF GOD TEACHER AGREEMENT**

This agreement must be signed by any person serving in a Volunteer Teacher Position for the Enola First Church of God.

Persons with the Position of Teacher for the Enola First Church of God include any persons age 14 and above who have been approved as volunteer teachers by the Navigators Ministry Team and meet the criteria outlined in the POLICY ON BECOMING A TEACHER. However, if a teacher becomes employed as a paid teacher by Enola First Church of God, they must then sign a Ministerial Employee Agreement.

Persons serving as volunteer teachers who also serve in the position of Pastoral Staff who have signed a Pastoral Staff Agreement Form are exempt from signing a Teacher Agreement Form. Special or Ad-Hoc Teachers or Information Presenters from outside the Enola First Church of God who have been approved by the Navigators Ministry Team, the Administrative Board, or a Pastoral Staff member to teach or facilitate a one-time class, seminar, or series are exempt from signing a Teacher Agreement Form.

Teachers must also meet the qualifications and carry out the responsibilities stated in the attached POLICY ON BECOMING A TEACHER.

# ENOLA FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

## TEACHER AGREEMENT

The Enola First Church of God believes that to carry on the faith, practice, mission, and purpose of this church, to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church and the community, it is imperative that all persons who serve in a volunteer teacher position for this church agree to be governed by all statements listed in Article III—Statement of Faith, Beliefs, and Conduct—of its Constitution.

### **A. Statement of Faith: The Churches of God, General Conference, Summary Statement of Faith<sup>1</sup>**

1. We believe that the Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice.
2. We believe in one God, eternally existent in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – one in essence and community.
3. We believe in God the Father, the almighty Creator of heaven and earth.
4. We believe that Jesus Christ our Lord is the Word made flesh – fully God and fully man. We believe he was conceived by the Holy Spirit, was born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, was crucified, died and was buried, rose again on the third day, and ascended into heaven.
5. We believe in the divinity of the Holy Spirit, who indwells the believer. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin, enables the believer to live a holy life, comforts, teaches, and bestows spiritual gifts.
6. We believe humanity is created in the image of God, has fallen into sin, and can be born again by the Spirit, justified freely by grace, and saved through the atoning work of Jesus Christ alone.
7. We believe that the Church is the body of Christ, the people of God, whose mission is to make disciples of all nations and to be salt and light in the world.
8. We believe baptism, the Lord's supper, and feetwashing to be ordinances of the Church.
9. We believe in the return of Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, everlasting life, and the new heavens and new earth.

I agree with and believe in the above Statement of Faith. Furthermore, I affirm that I understand that all parts of this statement will be taught in this church and I agree not to object to such.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

### **B. Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality**

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female, and that these two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:27).

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<sup>1</sup> Taken from p. 6. "We Believe," Copyright 2014 by the Churches of God, General Conference. Printed in the United States of America. Used by permission.

1. We believe that God created marriage to be exclusively the union of one man, born as a man, and one woman, born as a woman, and that intimate sexual activity is to occur exclusively within that union (I Corinthians 7:1-3; Romans 1:26-27).
2. Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself, The Enola First Church of God will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. Further, the Pastors and staff of Enola First Church of God shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. Finally, the facilities and property of the Enola First Church of God shall only host weddings between one man and one woman.

I agree with, believe in, and will abide by #1 in the above statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. Furthermore, I affirm that I understand that #2 will be carried out as official practice in this church and I agree not to object to such.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

### **C. Statement on Sanctity of Human Life**

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (Psalm 139).

I agree with and believe in the above statement on the Sanctity of Human Life and I agree not to object to its being taught in this church.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

### **D. Statement on the Document Here We Stand 2016**

The Here We Stand document approved by the Churches of God, General Conference in 2016 provides “insight into the CGGC’s biblical understanding of contemporary issues facing the Church and how congregations and individual Christians can respond.”<sup>2</sup> The Enola First Church of God endorses and officially teaches according to the 2016 Here We Stand document.

I affirm that I have been given either a paper copy of Here We Stand 2016 or electronic access to Here We Stand 2016. I affirm that I will teach according to this document, and I agree not to object to such.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

### **E. Final Authority for Matters of Faith, Belief, and Conduct**

These statements of faith, belief, and conduct do not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of this church’s faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Administrative Board in accordance with the Churches of God, General Conference, is this church’s final interpretive authority on the Bible’s meaning and application (I Timothy 3:15).

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<sup>2</sup> Taken from the 2016 version of Here We Stand p. 2.

I have read and agree to abide by the statement on Final Authority for Matters of Faith, Belief, and Conduct.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

**I have reviewed the statements above as indicated by my initials after each of them, and I agree to be governed by all provisions herein. I understand that failure to do so or failure to meet the responsibilities of the POLICY ON BECOMING A TEACHER will be sufficient cause for me to be removed from my teaching position.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Position \_\_\_\_\_

## **POLICY ON BECOMING A TEACHER**

All teachers shall be appointed by the Navigators Ministry Team to carry out their mission statement, which is ‘to provide compassionate environments for teaching the Bible and helping to promote spiritual growth in all followers of Christ.’ Teachers are not ones who dispense facts, but who nurture lives in the Word, involve themselves in the lives of their students, and encourage greater service to the Lord Jesus Christ, keeping in mind the main objective of bringing the student to a saving knowledge of the Lord.

### QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Anyone who has attended faithfully for at least six (6) months and would like to become a teacher must make their request known to either the Pastor(s), Elders, or Navigators Ministry Team Leader for consideration by the Navigators Ministry Team.
2. Teachers must have a well-rounded knowledge of the Bible and not be a recent convert. They must demonstrate a relationship with the Lord that is reflected in their daily lives.
3. Teachers must be active and supportive in the Church as defined by the Constitution, unless specified exemptions are granted by the Navigators Ministry Team.
4. Teachers must sign the Teacher Agreement form affirming their agreement with Article III – Statement of Faith, Beliefs, and Conduct -- of the church Constitution.
5. Teachers must have completed the Child Protection Class and complete the appropriate background checks if working with children, youth, or the disabled.
6. A potential teacher may be mentored until they feel comfortable to teach themselves.
7. Teachers who have stepped down, have requested to be relieved of their responsibilities, and/or have not been regular attendees in the previous six (6) months without notifying the Navigators Ministry Team, will be required to be regular in attendance for six (6) months prior to becoming eligible to teach again. In addition, at the discretion of the Navigators Ministry Team, if working with children, youth, or the disabled, the teacher may be required to participate in a session of the Child Protection Class, complete a Children, Youth and Disabled Ministry application, a PA State Police Criminal background check, and/or a PA Child Line form prior to being eligible to teach.

### RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Teachers are expected to regularly attend all teacher-training sessions.
2. Teachers are urged to read at least one book each year relating to Christian Education and/or attend a workshop, particularly on the age level and area with which they work.
3. Teachers are expected to support regularly the services of the church.

4. Teachers are responsible to be punctual for class, arriving well in advance for class to set up the classroom. They should make sure that class begins on time and should follow established curriculum.
5. Teachers should find their own replacement when they are unable to be present for any class.
  - a. If you are part of a teacher rotation, you should find a replacement from the schedule of teachers in the rotation of which you are a part.
  - b. If you are a non-rotation teacher you should find a replacement from the approved substitute list for your class.
  - c. If you are a teacher for children from nursery-6th grade you should notify the Director of Children's Ministries of the change in teachers or if you are unable to obtain a replacement teacher.
  - d. If you are a teacher for 7th grade thru adult you should notify the Director of Discipleship of the change in teachers or if you are unable to obtain a replacement teacher.
  - e. If you find that you are unable to teach due to illness or other emergency situations please contact the appropriate Director as soon as possible.
  - f. For those teaching children or youth, the guidelines found in The Enola First Church of God Child Protection Policy must be strictly followed.
6. Teachers should encourage students to participate in discussion, prayer, Scripture memorization and extra-curricular activities. e.g. VBS, retreats, picnics, etc.
7. Teachers need to have all material approved by the Navigators Ministry Team and/or a Pastor (who will then notify the Ministry Team).

**I agree to carry out the responsibilities stated above and understand that failure to do so could result in dismissal from my teaching position.**

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(Name)

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(Date)

Revised 3/23/19 and approved by Navigators Ministry Team 3/23/19