

CONSTITUTION

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

Bloomington, Indiana

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Updated with Amendments

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Bloomington, IN 47401
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CONSTITUTION

THE CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH of Bloomington, Indiana

PREAMBLE

Whereas there is a need for orderly and well-defined procedure in the affairs of any church, the Christ Community Church hereby establishes this Constitution.

ARTICLE I NAME

This organization shall be known as the Christ Community Church of Bloomington, Indiana, and is herein referred to as the Church.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

The purpose of this Church is to glorify God through strengthening the commitment of its members to God, to the Body of Christ, and to the world by:

- 1) Teaching the Word of God to the edification, instruction, and discipline of its members and other believers;
- 2) Winning the unsaved to Christ;
- 3) Promoting Godly worship;
- 4) Encouraging fellowship, mutual commitment, and prayer among believers;
- 5) Training believers for the work of the ministry;
- 6) Proclaiming the gospel worldwide through the recruitment and support of workers for the ministry;
- 7) Training children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; and
- 8) Encouraging members to exhibit Christian love in the community through service and acts of kindness.

This Church is organized and operated for religious and philanthropic purposes within the meaning of the IRC 501(c)(3).

ARTICLE III GOVERNMENT

The government of this Church shall be vested in the body of the members who compose it. Governance shall be through a representative Board of Elders, herein referred to as the Board. The Board shall be selected from the membership and elected by the congregation.

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 Members

All members shall have the right to vote at any scheduled meeting called under the authority of Article VI, Section 2, except an associate member and any other member who has not attained his or her eighteenth birthday.

Section 2 Responsibilities

The responsibilities of membership include the following:

- 1) Diligence in continued personal growth in Christ;
- 2) Commitment to love and to help other members;
- 3) Concern for maintaining an effective witness in the world;
- 4) Regularity in corporate worship and fellowship;
- 5) Faithful stewardship of finances, time, and abilities;
- 6) Willingness to serve in elective, appointive, or other capacities in the Church consistent with God-given gifts and the leading of the Holy Spirit;
- 7) Prayer for the leadership and support of the Church; and
- 8) Consistency in living and serving in the community in a way that is honoring to the Lord and to the Church.

Section 3 Qualifications

Anyone shall be eligible for membership in this Church who:

- 1) Has been born again through saving faith in Jesus Christ;
- 2) Shares the concerns of the Church described in Article II;
- 3) Subscribes to the Statement of Faith in Article V; and
- 4) Accepts the responsibilities of membership in Section 2 of this Article.

Section 4 Certification

Certification and recertification of membership shall be the function of the Board.

Section 5 Revocation

Membership may be revoked by the Board upon gross neglect of the responsibilities of membership or when a member manifests failure to maintain one or more of the qualifications described in Section 3 of this Article. One whose membership has been revoked shall be so informed and may request reversal of this action at a subsequent business meeting of the Church.

Section 6
Associate Members

Those who attend services regularly in this Church but who prefer to retain membership in another Church, and those who are unable to participate actively in the ministry and fellowship, may request an informal relationship with this Church. If they meet the qualifications in Section 3 of this Article, they shall be designated associate members. They shall have no vote, and shall be ineligible for office, but otherwise shall be encouraged and welcomed into full participation in the activities in this Church.

Section 7
Transfers and Resignations

This Church shall neither issue nor receive transfers of membership. Those who leave this Church may make written request for a letter of recommendation to another Church, which request shall constitute a termination of membership in this Church. A member may resign by written notice to the Board. Those who desire membership in this Church shall be accepted according to Sections 3 and 4 of this Article.

**ARTICLE V
STATEMENT OF FAITH**

This Church affirms the doctrinal position as follows:

- 1) We believe the Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments in their entirety, to be the verbally inspired Word of God, inerrant in the original writing, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of the world, and preserved by God throughout the ages to be the Divine and final authority for all faith and life.
- 2) We believe in one God, Creator of all things, infinite, perfect, and eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- 3) We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate. We believe that He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died on the cross as a sacrifice sufficient for the sins of the world, rose bodily from the dead, and ascended into heaven, where He serves as our Mediator and Intercessor with the Father until He returns at the end of this age.
- 4) We believe that the present ministry of the Holy Spirit is to reveal the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ; to convict individuals of sin; to regenerate the sinner who believes; and to indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for Godly living and service.
- 5) We believe that man was created in the image of God and that his subsequent willful sin resulted in physical and spiritual death and in the necessity of a new birth for salvation.
- 6) We believe that the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground for salvation; that salvation is by God's grace alone, complete and eternal; and that only as one receives this gift of God through personal faith in Christ is one born of the Holy Spirit and made a child of God.
- 7) We believe that water baptism and communion are ordinances to be observed by the Church during the present age.
- 8) We believe that the Church universal is composed of all persons who have been born again through saving faith in Jesus Christ and have therefore become members of the Body of Christ of which He is the Head. Furthermore, we believe that the local Church should be the visible expression and should fulfill the purpose of the Church universal in the world.

- 9) We believe in the imminent, bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ and that this expectation should encourage the believer to lead a godly and fruitful life.
- 10) We believe in the bodily resurrection of all the dead: of the believer to everlasting blessedness and eternal life in the presence of God, and of the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting punishment apart from God.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

Section 1 Religious Meetings

This Church shall meet each Sunday for religious purposes and at other times as the members or the Board shall determine.

Section 2 Business Meetings

- 1) Two business meetings shall be held each year to elect officers and to confirm budgets.
 - a) One business meeting shall be held in the fall, prior to December 15, to elect officers and to confirm the Missions Budget.
 - i Officers shall take office on January 1 immediately following the election. An organizational meeting may be conducted anytime following an election.
 - ii The Missions Budget shall be for the period January 1 to December 31.
 - b) One business meeting shall be held in the spring, prior to June 1, to confirm the Operating Budget and the Building Fund Budget, if any.
 - i The Operating Budget and the Building Fund Budget, if any, shall be for the period of July 1 to June 30. The Church fiscal year shall be from July 1 to June 30.
 - c) Meetings for special purposes may be held at any time, but their business shall be limited to the purposes set forth in the notice thereof.
 - d) Notice of all Church business meetings shall be given from the pulpit on the two Sundays preceding the day of the meeting.
- 2) All Church business meetings shall be called by the Board. A Church business meeting shall be called by the Board upon written petition signed by at least ten percent of the voting members of the Church, and the petition shall specify the nature of the business to be considered at such meeting. The meeting must be held within 30 days of the receipt of the petition. Announcement of the meeting shall conform to Paragraph 1,c of this Section.
- 3) The chairman of the Board or an alternate shall moderate all Church business meetings. The Clerk or an alternate shall serve as clerk at Church business meetings and shall keep minutes of all meetings.
- 4) A minimum of one-fifth of the membership of the Church shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- 5) A simple majority vote of those present and voting shall decide all matters unless otherwise provided in this Constitution.
- 6) Robert's Rules of Order shall be the guidelines to be followed in matters of parliamentary procedure, but the chairman of the meeting may call for temporary suspension of Robert's Rules of Order for prayer, seeking God's guidance, and reading of Scripture.

ARTICLE VII ELECTIONS

Unless otherwise stipulated, all elected officers shall serve for three-year terms, beginning January 1 immediately following the election. There shall be three classes of terms, so that one-third of the terms expire each year. No elected official shall serve consecutive terms, either partial or full, aggregating more than six years. Having served six consecutive years, the person shall be ineligible for further service in that position until at least one year has elapsed from the expiration date of the last term served. Subsequent to this sabbatical leave, such individual shall be eligible for service.

Unless otherwise stipulated, only active voting members of the Church are eligible to serve in elected offices.

ARTICLE VIII LEADERSHIP

Section 1 Leadership and Organization

Under the authority of Jesus Christ and the Word of God, the membership of the Church is the final authority within this local Church. Authority is exercised through the Board. Other offices specified by this Constitution and those authorized by the Governing Rules Manual are to support the Board in governance of this Church. The offices of Elder, Deacon, and Treasurer are filled by election in accordance with Article IX, Section 1. A Governing Rules Manual is maintained by the Board and establishes Board approved business practices including: procedures for each office of the Church; committee charters; staff ministries and position descriptions.

Section 2 Qualifications

In selecting leaders in the Church, a basic assumption is to be made that not everyone qualified for membership is qualified for leadership. Those nominated for the office of Elder shall satisfy the Biblical qualifications for elder, described in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Those nominated for the office of Deacon shall satisfy the Biblical qualifications described in Acts 6:2-6 and I Timothy 3:8-13. Those nominated for the office of Treasurer shall evidence spiritual maturity and give evidence of consistent living in fellowship with Christ. The spouse, if any, of an elder of the Church, shall share a commitment to Christ and shall support the service of that office.

Section 3 Board of Elders

- 1) The Board shall exercise government and discipline and shall assume the spiritual oversight of the Church. The Board is responsible for watching over and caring for those who have committed themselves to their charge by membership and also for demonstrating interest in, and support of, those who are not members but regularly attend. The elders shall exercise their teaching gifts in the ministry of the Word and shall guard against corruption of doctrine and morals. The Board shall oversee all affairs that take place in the name of the Church, including those duties delegated to Pastors, Deacons, Treasurer, ministerial staff members, other staff members, and committees. The Board shall meet at least once monthly in the performance of its duties.
- 2) The Board shall have power to acquire, hold, and dispose of real and personal property of this corporation, and shall have full power and authority to borrow money and execute its notes and/or bonds and to secure

the same by mortgage or other encumbrance upon its real or personal property subject to approval of the Church. The Board shall have final responsibility for the finances and all property of the Church.

- 3) An elected elder may be dismissed by termination of a call to the eldership by action of the Board for gross failure in doctrine or morals. Such action may be brought before the Board by any two of its members. If the Board, after thorough investigation and consideration, believes the cause to be true and substantial, the call to the eldership may be terminated by a simple majority of those present and voting at a duly called meeting of the Board.
- 4) The Board may be dismissed by a no-confidence vote of the congregation for gross failure to govern as a representative agent of the congregation in accordance with this Constitution, or for failure to police itself in matters of doctrine or morals. A meeting to consider dismissal of the Board may be called by the congregation as described in Article VI, Section 2. A majority vote of those members present and voting by written ballot is required to dismiss the Board.
- 5) Should the Board for any reason undergo attrition of all active elders, or be dismissed as provided in Paragraph 4 above, the elected members of the Nominating Committee shall appoint a temporary Board of three (3) to five (5) members to effect governance of the Church and provide opportunity for a special election to re-establish the Board. Appointees shall meet qualifications for elder listed in Section 2 of this Article. The term of the temporary Board shall not exceed six months and will terminate at completion of the special election. The elected members of the Nominating Committee shall function as a Nominating Committee for the special election. The senior member of the Committee, based on tenure of membership at this Church, shall serve as chairperson.

Section 4 Deacons

The office of Deacon is established to minister to the sick and those in need or distress. The active deacons shall administer the Deacon's Fund to meet emergency financial needs of members and friends of the Church. They may assume other responsibilities appropriate to their office as requested by the Board.

Section 5 Church Treasurer

- 1) The office of Church Treasurer is established to assist the Board in providing oversight and direction of financial activities of the Church. The Treasurer shall be responsible to keep or cause to keep all financial records of the Church, receive and disburse all Church monies for current expenses, the Building Fund, and the Missions Fund, at the direction of the Board. No money shall be disbursed except in the categories provided for in the annual Operating Budget, or as authorized in a special Church business meeting, or by the written direction of the Board. However, as authorized by the Board, money received in special offerings or received as specially designated gifts may be disbursed by the Treasurer to the person or organization for whom the offering was designated. Authority and responsibility to keep all financial records and disburse all monies for the Deacon's Fund is delegated to the active deacons. There shall be an annual audit of all receipts and disbursements as stipulated by the Board.
- 2) The Treasurer shall serve as chairperson of the Finance Committee, which shall prepare a Operating Budget for consideration and confirmation of the Church at the business meeting to be held in the spring of each year as described in Article VI, Section 2.
- 3) The office of Treasurer is filled by election of the congregation in accordance with Article VII. The term of office shall be three years. The Treasurer may serve an unlimited number of successive terms.

ARTICLE IX COMMITTEES

The Board, as the representative governing body of the Church, shall organize operations however it determines best to achieve the mission of the Church. This includes the creation or dissolution of standing or ad hoc committees appointed by and serving at the discretion of the Board. Committees shall assist the Board in any service that supports and promotes the ministry of the Word, new and existing ministries of the Church, and the care for the members of the congregation. A written charter shall be developed and maintained for each committee consistent with this Constitution and in accordance with the Governing Rules Manual.

Section 1 Nominating Committee

- 1) Nominations for elected officers of the Church shall be made by a Nominating Committee. Additional nominations from the congregation shall be permitted for every office for which nominations are being submitted, provided such nominations have the approval of the nominee, carry the signatures of at least ten other members of the congregation, and are given to the Nominating Committee in writing at least three business days before the business meeting at which the election is to take place.
- 2) The Nominating Committee shall consist of ten (10) members. Two members shall be designated by and from the Board, one of whom shall be named by the Board as chairman. One member shall be designated by and from the active deacons. One member shall be designated by and from the staff. Six (6) members shall be elected by and from the Church. The Committee shall serve for one year.
- 3) Nominations shall be made annually for all vacant offices to be filled by the election process. This includes the six (6) positions on the Nominating Committee to be filled by and from the Church. Two (2) of the elected members of the Committee shall serve two (2) year terms.

ARTICLE X PASTORS AND OTHER STAFF

Section 1 Pastors

The Senior Pastor and other pastoral staff shall perform duties as specified by the Board and confirmed by the congregation. Duties shall be specified in writing at the time of the call to service. The Board shall maintain staff position descriptions in the Governing Rules Manual. Substantive changes to a pastoral position description shall be confirmed by the Church.

- 1) The Church's call of a Senior Pastor, herein referred to as the Pastor, is a call to the eldership of the Church. Together with elected elders, the Pastor shall oversee the spiritual life of the Church. The Pastor shall preach the Word of God, administer the ordinances, and supervise ministerial staff. In matters of Church governance the Pastor shall be responsible to the Board and to the Church, all members being accountable to God. The Pastor shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Board. The Pastor shall serve as an ex-officio member of all committees.
- 2) The Pastor shall meet the qualifications of elder as described in I Timothy 3 and Titus 1 (see Article VIII, Section 2). Because of the leadership and teaching responsibilities of the position, appropriate educational background (ordinarily college and seminary training or the equivalent) shall be expected of the Pastor. In addition, the Pastor's spouse, if any, shall share a commitment to Christ and to Christian service.

- 3) A Pastor is called to serve by and at the pleasure of the Board with congregational confirmation. When a Pastor is to be called to serve the Church, the Board shall act as or shall appoint a Pastoral Search Committee. The Pastoral Search Committee shall recommend a candidate to the Board only after the candidate has been approved by at least three-fourths of the Pastoral Search Committee members. Three-fourths or larger approval of the Board is required to recommend the candidate to the Church for confirmation. Only one candidate at a time shall be recommended to the Church.
- 4) The candidate shall assent to the Purpose and Statement of Faith as stated in Article II and Article V, respectively, and shall agree to abide by all other provisions in this Constitution and accompanying Governing Rules Manual. At a church business meeting announced for this purpose, as described in Article VI, Section 2, Paragraph 1, the recommendation of the Pastoral Search Committee shall be read. The recommendation shall include terms of the call, including salary and other financial considerations, vacation, leave, responsibilities, and other matters deemed appropriate by the Pastoral Search Committee. The Church shall vote by written ballot, and a three-fourths or larger majority of those present and voting is necessary for a call to be issued. The term of office shall be indefinite and shall terminate upon the resignation, retirement, incapacitating disability, death, or dismissal of the Pastor.
- 5) The Pastor and the Pastor's spouse, if any, shall become members of the Church by virtue of the acceptance of the call.
- 6) The Pastor may be dismissed by termination of the call by the Board with or without cause or by a vote of the congregation as described in Paragraph 7 below. Request for dismissal of the Pastor may be brought before the Board by any two of its members. If the Board, after thorough investigation and consideration, believes dismissal constitutes prudent action or if a cause for dismissal has been established as true and substantial, the call of the Pastor may be terminated by a simple majority vote (based on the total number of elected elders serving on the Board) at a duly called meeting of the Board.
- 7) A meeting to consider dismissal of the Pastor may be called by the congregation as described in Article VI, Section 2, Paragraph 2, and the announcement must specify the purpose of the meeting when the matter of dismissal is considered. A majority vote of those members present and voting by written ballot is required to dismiss the Pastor. A congregational vote to dismiss the Pastor constitutes a mandate to the Board to rescind the pastoral call.
- 8) Severance compensation shall be determined by the Board in the event of dismissal.
- 9) An Interim Pastor must meet the same qualifications as a Pastor and shall be called by the Board for a term of six months, with such term subject to renewal for another six-month period one or more times at the discretion of the Board. Within any six-month term, an Interim Pastor shall be subject to dismissal by the Board. Only one Interim Pastor is to serve at any given time.

Section 2 Other Ministerial Staff

- 1) Ministerial staff shall serve under the direction of the Pastor and at the pleasure of the Board. Anyone called as an Associate or Assistant Pastor shall meet the same spiritual qualifications as the Pastor and shall be called in the same manner as applicable to the Pastor.
- 2) Ministerial staff shall be employed by the Board and any dismissal shall be consistent with the applicable hiring process. Staffing shall be supported by provisions in the annual Operating Budget or as approved at a duly called church business meeting. The qualifications for any ministerial staff position shall be approved by the Board subject to the constraint that all persons employed shall be spiritually mature Christians of good reputation.

Section 3
Other Staff

Other staff necessary for the ministry and support of the Church may be employed by the Board. Such employment shall depend on provision in the annual Operating Budget for such employment or as authorized at a duly called church business meeting.

**ARTICLE XI
DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY**

Section 1
Division of Membership

In the event of the division of the membership into two or more groups, the property and all associated liens and mortgage indebtedness shall remain with the group retaining the largest proportion of the membership at the time of the division, unless otherwise agreed among the groups.

Section 2
Dissolution of the Church

- 1) In the event membership decreases to ten or fewer, or if the members vote to dissolve the Church, the duly elected Board may dissolve the corporation and may disburse all assets, including real estate, to one or more non-profit corporations unless otherwise authorized by the membership.
- 2) If the Church should fail to have an annual business meeting without good cause, or the Church does not elect elders to maintain the Board size approved by the Church, or if the church members vote to dissolve the Church, those elders then serving on the Board shall continue in office until replaced or until all assets are disbursed and the corporation dissolved. Those elders continuing in office shall have authority to disburse property, as described in Paragraph 1 of this Section. The provisions in this Section supersede the restrictions in Article VII.

**ARTICLE XII
AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution shall be amended after an amendment has been approved by vote at two duly called church business meetings held at least two weeks apart. At the first meeting, if the proposed amendment, upon being read in its entirety and/or being distributed in written form to all present, receives approval of a simple majority of those present and voting, the proposed amendment shall be eligible for a second reading at a subsequent church business meeting. Written copies of the proposed amendment shall be distributed at Sunday services between the first and second readings. At the second reading the amendment shall again be read in its entirety and/or distributed in written form to all present. If, after this second reading, the amendment is approved by a two-thirds majority vote of those members present and voting, the amendment shall be incorporated into this Constitution.