

AMMENDED AND RESTATED
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
of
Northview Christian Life Church
Indianapolis, Indiana

Elder-Proposed Constitution and Bylaws for 2019 Annual Business Meeting

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AMENDED AND RESTATED CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF
NORTHVIEW CHRISTIAN LIFE CHURCH
Indianapolis, Indiana

INTRODUCTION

This Amended and Restated Constitution (the “Constitution”) and these Amended and Restated Bylaws (the “Bylaws”) govern the affairs of Northview Christian Life Church (the “Church”), an Indiana non-profit corporation — amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership in attendance at a special business meeting on March 25, 2019.

Our Church exists to connect people with God and connect people with people. The Church lives out its purpose by focusing on three core biblical values: 1. We value relationships that are real, raw and rich with love for one another. Since people are made for life-giving relationships, we will create environments that nurture meaningful human connections; 2. We value spiritual growth that activates faith in Jesus. Since God called us to mature fully in our faith, we will create next steps to encourage spiritual formation for all; 3. We value reaching out to those who are far from God and lost. Since Jesus is the way to know God, we will do anything, short of sin, to lead people to a saving faith in Him.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I—NAME

The name of our church is Northview Christian Life Church.

ARTICLE II—AFFILIATION

Section 1—General Inter-Church Relationships. Our church recognizes that we are a part of the Body of Christ, and we are committed to maintaining Christ-honoring relationships with other evangelical churches, regardless of denominational differences.

Section 2—Church Affiliation. Our church is autonomous and maintains the right to govern our own affairs, independent of any denominational influence.

ARTICLE III—PREROGATIVES

Section 1—Our church will have the right to govern itself according to the standards of the Bible, “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace ... until we

all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” Ephesians 4:3,13 (NIV)

Section 2—It will have the right to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest or otherwise, either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes — all in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE IV—TENETS OF FAITH

About the Bible

We believe the Bible is inspired by God and that His Spirit directed men to write His words, therefore, we believe that it contains no errors. (2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21)

About God

We believe that there is only one God who exists in three distinct persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10-11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22)

About Jesus

We believe that Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary, that he is both God and man, that he never sinned, and that he performed miracles. Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead so that sins can be forgiven. Jesus is now with the Father in heaven but will someday return to earth in power and glory. (John 1:1; Philippians 2:5,6; Luke 1:26-38; Hebrews 7:26; Acts 2:22; 1 Corinthians 15:3; Matthew 28:6; Acts 1:9-11)

About the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every Christian and that He provides the power for living a life that pleases God. The Holy Spirit guides the believer to what is true and strengthens him to resist what is not from God. The Holy Spirit gives every believer spiritual gifts for the building up of the church. We are filled by the Holy Spirit when we yield to God’s authority in our life and ask Him to fill us. (Romans 12:1,2; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,8; 1 Corinthians 12: 1-13; Ephesians 5:18)

About Mankind

We believe that all people are created in the image of God to have fellowship with Him but became alienated in that relationship through sin, rebelling against God’s will. Therefore, a person is incapable of regaining a right relationship with God through his or her own effort

alone. (Genesis 1:27; Romans 3:23; Galatians 3:22; Ephesians 2:8,9)

About Salvation

We believe that the blood of Jesus Christ provides the sole basis for the forgiveness of sin. Therefore, only those who place their faith in Jesus' sacrifice on the cross will be saved. When a person believes in Jesus, God — the Holy Spirit — gives that person a brand-new life and he or she is born anew. (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Galatians 4:6)

About the Christian Life

We believe that all Christians should live for Christ and not for themselves. By obeying God's commands as found in the Bible and by yielding daily to the Spirit of God, every believer should mature and be conformed to the likeness of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:20-26; John 14: 23,24; Romans 12:1-3)

About Eternity

We believe that those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ will live eternally with God (heaven), and that those who have not placed their faith in Jesus will live eternally without God (hell). (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20; 20:1-15; 21:8)

About the Church

We believe that the church is the body of Christ, of which Jesus Christ is the head. The members of the church are those who have placed their faith in Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. The purpose of the church is to glorify God by loving Him and by making Him known to the lost world. (Ephesians 1:22, 23; Colossians 1:18; Matthew 28:18-20)

ARTICLE V—ORDINANCES

Section 1—The ordinance of water baptism, by immersion, will be encouraged and taught as a fundamental first step to all those who have repented of their sins and who have, by faith, trusted Jesus as their Savior and Lord. (Matthew 28:19, Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12)

Section 2—The ordinance of communion will be observed regularly. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

ARTICLE VI – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1—Membership in our church will be open to all those, eighteen years of age or

older, who have placed their faith in Jesus, who embrace its tenets of faith, who agree to be governed by its Constitution and Bylaws, and who are approved for membership by the Elders.

ARTICLE VII—CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Section 1—Senior Pastor. There will be an Elder recognized by church leaders as being called by God to serve as the lead spiritual overseer of our church.

Section 2—Elders. There will be a minimum of four men who are recognized by our church as being called by God to serve as spiritual overseers of our church, ministering in concert with the Senior Pastor to provide spiritual direction for our congregation.

Section 3—Officers. The President (Senior Pastor), Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer will be the designated legal officers of our church.

Section 4—Trustees. Six persons will be elected to serve as Trustees in charge of the material interests of our church.

Section 5—Trustee Team. The Officers and Trustees will comprise the Trustee Team.

ARTICLE VIII—MEETINGS

Section 1—Meetings for public worship, instruction, and others will be held each week under the direction of the Senior Pastor and Elders.

Section 2—Special Business Meetings may be called by either the Senior Pastor, a two-thirds majority of the Elders, a two-thirds majority of the Trustees, or by written petition of two-thirds of the membership of the church. Copies of the petition will be given to the Senior Pastor, the Vice-President and the Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 3—Only votes by members will be counted at any Special Business Meetings.

ARTICLE IX—PROPERTY AND FINANCES

Section 1—Holding of Property. All property, real or chattel, will be taken, held, sold, transferred or conveyed in the name of the church with the President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer acting as the authorized and duly constituted agents of our church.

Section 2—Purchase of Real Estate and Construction of Facilities. No real property will be purchased or leased, nor facilities constructed, with a value of one million dollars or more, without the approval of at least two-thirds of the combined Trustee and Elder Teams. All other types of property may be purchased, leased, or facilities constructed at the discretion of the President and Trustee Team.

Section 3—Disposing of Property. No real property of our church, with a value of one million dollars or more will be sold, mortgaged or otherwise alienated without the approval of at least two-thirds of the combined Trustee and Elder Teams. All other types of property may be sold, leased or mortgaged at the discretion of the President and Trustee Team.

Section 4—Certification. In the event of approval to purchase property, construct facilities, or sell, lease, mortgage or otherwise alienate property the officers of our church will certify that the same has been duly authorized and approved. Such certification will be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

Section 5—Property Rights and Reversion. In the event our church ceases to function, all property, real or chattel, will be liquidated and all proceeds will be distributed to all existing mission organizations of our church who have been actively supported over the past three years in proportion to the percentage of the mission budget that they have received.

Section 6—Finances. All funds for the maintenance and outreach of our church will be provided by the voluntary contributions of tithes and offerings by members, entities and friends of the church. Contributions and offerings will be accepted by our church at such times and in such ways as agreed upon by the Senior Pastor and Trustee Team. All funds will be under the direction of the Trustee Team. (Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

ARTICLE X—MINISTRY TEAMS

The Senior Pastor and Staff may establish ministry teams as need arises.

ARTICLE XI—AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by two-thirds of the votes cast at any Special Business Meeting called for that purpose provided written notice to members of the proposed change will have been given no less than two weeks prior to the time of the meeting.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I – MEETINGS

Section 1—Quorum

- (a) Trustee Team Meeting—No meeting of the Trustee Team will be considered official and no record will be kept of its proceedings and decisions unless one-half or more of the Trustees are present to constitute a quorum.

Section 2—Announcement of Meetings

- (a) Special Business Meetings—All Special Business Meetings of our church will be announced by written notice to members no less than two weeks prior to the time of the meeting. An explanation as to the purpose of such meetings will be included in the announcements.
- (b) Minutes—Accurate minutes will be kept of all Special Business Meetings and Trustee Team meetings. The minutes will be made a permanent part of our church's record.

ARTICLE II—ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SENIOR PASTOR, ELDERS, OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Section 1—Senior Pastor

- (a) The Senior Pastor will be considered to be the lead spiritual overseer of our church.
- (b) He will prayerfully seek God's will for our church and faithfully proclaim the truth of God's Word through his role as the primary teaching pastor, vision caster and directional leader of our church. (Acts 6:4)
- (c) Upon his election, he becomes a member of the church.
- (d) He will be the President of our corporation.
- (e) He will act as chairman, or will appoint a chairman, of all Special Business Meetings of our church, except under circumstances addressed in Bylaws / Article III / Section 1 / Letter (d), (e), and (f).
- (f) He will be an ex officio member of all ministries, departments or other Teams and will have ultimate responsibility and authority for all services, ministries and staffing decisions for our church.

Section 2—Elders

- (a) Senior Pastor is accountable to the Elders. They will have authority over the affairs of our church generally, will take the principles of the Bible and

apply them to matters of church life and will rule on matters of doctrine and faith. They will prayerfully seek God's will for our church and faithfully proclaim the truth of God's Word as they partner with the Senior Pastor in his responsibility as the primary teacher, vision caster and directional leader.

- (b) They will provide accountability to and will conduct an annual review of the Senior Pastor.
- (c) They will meet on a frequent basis.
- (d) They will approve applicants for church membership.
- (e) They may administer our church's ordinances.
- (f) They may ordain people, found to be qualified and called by God, into the pastorate.
- (g) They will assist the Senior Pastor in the administration of discipline of church members.
- (h) Whenever our church is without a Senior Pastor, the Elders are empowered to authorize an Elder to serve as the President of the corporation and to arrange for the fulfillment of the Senior Pastor's responsibilities.

Section 3—Legal Officers of our Church

The President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer will act as the legal officers for our church in the holding and conveying of property and in the signing of all legal instruments and documents, following adequate legal review and consultation.

Section 4—Vice-President

- (a) The Vice-President will serve as a member of the Trustee Team.
- (b) When a vacancy in the presidency occurs, he will serve as President of our church until a new President is elected or appointed.
- (c) He will be an Elder.

Section 5—Secretary-Treasurer

- (a) The Secretary-Treasurer will keep minutes of the official meetings of the Trustee Team and the Special Business Meetings of our church.
- (b) He will keep a record of the membership of our church, or as delegated.
- (c) He will be the custodian of all legal documents and in possession of the corporate seal, or as delegated.
- (d) He will see that an itemized account of receipts and disbursements are kept. He will make a report at the regular meetings of the Trustee Team as requested by the Senior Pastor or Trustee Team, or as delegated.

- (e) All checks and withdrawals of our church shall be signed by an officer of our church, or as delegated.

Section 6—Trustees

- (a) Trustees will govern the financial affairs of our church.
- (b) They will be responsible for the maintenance and repair of all real and personal property of our church.
- (c) They will meet regularly.
- (d) They will approve our annual church budget.
- (e) Accounts of our church shall be audited annually under the direction of the Trustee Team.

ARTICLE III—ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES

Section 1—Senior Pastor

- (a) The Senior Pastor will be elected to serve for an indefinite period of time.
- (b) Ballots will be cast in all elections for Senior Pastor.
- (c) In the event that a Senior Pastor is in good standing and has decided to retire from his position with the church, the Senior Pastor will lead the Elder Team in the search process for his replacement. The Elder Team will present a candidate for the election of a Senior Pastor at a Special Business Meeting called for that purpose. A two thirds majority of all votes cast will be required to constitute an election.
- (d) In the event a Senior Pastor dies, becomes medically incapacitated, unexpectedly abdicates his position, or resigns due to moral failure, the Elders and a minimum of two staff members, chosen by the Elders, will serve as the Pastoral Search Team to find his replacement. The Pastoral Search Team will present a candidate for the election of a Senior Pastor at a Special Business Meeting called for that purpose. A two thirds majority of all votes cast will be required to constitute an election. Such a meeting will be presided over by the Vice-President.
- (e) In the event a Senior Pastor has serious charges preferred against him or his ministry has ceased to be effective, power is vested in the Elders to ask for his resignation at any of their regular meetings. If such resignation is refused by the Senior Pastor, the pastorate will not be considered vacant until the action of the Elders, along with a majority of support from the Trustee Team, has been confirmed by a majority of the votes cast at a Special Business Meeting called for that purpose. Such a meeting will be presided over by the Vice-President.
- (f) In the event a Senior Pastor has serious charges preferred against him or

his ministry has ceased to be effective, and the Elder Team fails to ask for his resignation, Special Business Meeting may be called by written petition of two-thirds of the members. A two-thirds vote of the total membership is required to affect the dismissal of the Senior Pastor and the Elder Team. The responsibility of the Elders will be assumed by the Trustee Team until a new Senior Pastor and Elder Team are in place. Such a meeting will be presided over by a Trustee.

Section 2—Elders

- (a) A person nominated to be an Elder by the Senior Pastor will be unanimously affirmed by the Elder Team before being appointed.
- (b) After serving a four-year term, an Elder will rotate off for a minimum period of one year, except for the Senior Pastor who never rotates off. Elders can serve multiple four-year terms.
- (c) A minimum of one and maximum of two Elders will rotate off the team each year.
- (d) In the event of a moral or disqualifying failure, an Elder may be removed by a simple majority vote of the Elder Team.
- (e) The number of Elders will be a minimum of five and a maximum of nine (including the Senior Pastor).

Section 3—Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer

The Senior Pastor will select the Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer. Their appointments will be for two years. The Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer may be re-appointed for consecutive terms.

Section 4—Trustees

- (a) Annually, with the consultation of the Senior Pastor, the combined Elder and Trustee Teams will vote to elect two new Trustees. The two people receiving the most votes will be elected to serve as Trustee.
- (b) The term of office will be for three years from the time of appointment with two Trustees being appointed each year.

Section 5—Vacancies

- (a) Any vacancy on the Trustee Team will be filled by a person selected by the Elders.
- (b) Vacancies in any office of our church may be declared by action of the Senior Pastor for any good and sufficient reason.

Section 6—Absentee Ballots and Blank Ballots

- (a) Absentee ballots of members will be accepted at a Special Business

Meeting of the church in cases where the member is unable to attend the meeting. A member voting absentee will be considered “in attendance” and be counted as a part of the quorum. They will be placed in a sealed envelope bearing the member’s name and given to an officer, or appointed person, prior to the meeting during which the votes are to be cast.

- (b) Blank ballots will not be included in the determination of any election or vote result.

ARTICLE IV—QUALIFICATION OF THE SENIOR PASTOR, ELDERS AND TRUSTEES

Section 1—Senior Pastor

Being recognized by church leaders as a man called by God to serve as the lead spiritual overseer of our church, the Senior Pastor should be a person of Christian character, a spiritually gifted leader and teacher, and a credentialed minister. (I Timothy 3:1-13)

Section 2—Elders

- (a) The Elders will meet the requirements for Elders that are found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; and 1 Peter 5.
- (b) They will have been active members of our church for at least two years.
- (c) They will faithfully give a tithe to our church and attend services regularly.

Section 3—Trustees

- (a) Trustees will be recognized by the leadership of the church as being of Christian character, experienced and knowledgeable.
- (b) They will have been active members of our church for at least two years.
- (c) They will faithfully give a tithe to our church and attend services regularly.

ARTICLE V—MEMBERSHIP

Section 1—Reception of Members

- (a) Persons who desire to be a member of our church will complete a Membership Questionnaire and offer it to the Elders for review.
- (b) The Elders will determine whether a person meets our church’s standard for membership.
- (c) When a person is accepted into membership, his/her name will be placed on the church roster.

Section 2—Standard of Membership

- (a) A member is a person who has turned from his/her sin and turned to God by placing his/her faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, acknowledging Him as Savior and Lord. (John 1:12-13; 3:3-8; 1 Peter 1:18-25)
- (b) A member is a person who has declared publicly his/her Christian faith through baptism in water.
- (c) A member is a person who embraces our church's vision, mission, values, and tenets of faith.
- (d) A member is a person who supports the ministry of our church with his/her time, talents and financial resources.
- (e) A member is a person who is accountable to church leadership in matters concerning our church.

Section 3—Revision of the Membership Roll

The staff will review and update the membership roll annually.

ARTICLE VI—AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by a majority of the votes cast at any Special Business Meeting called for that purpose provided written notice to members of the proposed change will have been given no less than two weeks prior to the time of the meeting.