

Bylaws of Community Christian Church

Article I

Section A: Name

1. We are Oak Manor Christian Church doing business as Community Christian Church

Section B: Purpose

1. To build and maintain a church after the pattern set forth in the New Testament, whose members shall be simply known as "Christians" and whose terms of admittance shall be identical with those set forth in the New Testament. Those are:
 - (1) Faith in Jesus Christ as the son of the living God (Matthew 16:16, Acts 16:31)
 - (2) Repentance (Luke 13:3, Acts 2:38)
 - (3) A public confession of faith (Matthew 10:32-33, Romans 10:9)
 - (4) Water baptism by immersion for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38, Romans 6:4, Colossians 2:12)

Section C: Affiliation

1. CCC is an autonomous institution not associated in any manner with any denomination or denominational organization. We reserve the right to conduct our own business without outside interference and to abide by the decisions of the congregation meeting in regular or special sessions.

Section D: Beliefs

1. We believe the entire Bible is the inspired Word of God and that men were moved by the Spirit to write the words of Scripture. Therefore, the doctrine of the Bible is without error or fault in all its teaching. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 3:14-16)
2. We believe in one God who exists in three distinct persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). (Matthew 3:16-17, Matthew 28:18-20, John 14:26)
3. We believe that Jesus Christ is the second member of the Trinity (the Son of God) who became flesh to reveal God to man and to become the Savior of the lost world. (Matthew 3:16-17, Acts 5:30-32, Philippians 3:20)
4. We believe that man was created in the image of God to have fellowship with Him, but became alienated from that relationship through sinful disobedience. As a result, man is totally incapable of coming back into a right relationship with God by his own effort. (Genesis 1:26-27, Genesis 3, Ephesians 2:4-10)
5. We believe that the shed blood of Jesus Christ on the cross provides the sole basis for the forgiveness of sins. Therefore, salvation only occurs when a person places his faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus as the sufficient payment for his sin. (1 John 1:5-9, John 6:53-54)
6. We believe that every Christian should live for Christ and not for himself. By obedience to the Word and daily yielding to the Spirit, every believer will mature and become conformed to the image of Christ. (Luke 9:23, James 1:22-25, Ephesians 4:14-15)
7. We believe that God's intention for the intimate community of mankind is through the marriage of a man and a woman. (Genesis 2:23-24, Matthew 19:4-6, 1 Corinthians 7:2-5)

8. We believe that the church is the body of Christ of which Jesus Christ is the Head. The members are those who have trusted by faith the finished work of Christ. The purpose of the church is to glorify God by loving Him and by making Him known to a lost world. (Colossians 1:15-20, Ephesians 1:22-23, 1 Peter 2:12)

9. We believe that it is every Christian's purpose to advance the Kingdom of God here on earth, making an effort to restore creation to its original relationship with its creator. (Romans 15:1-13, 1 Peter 2:11-12, 1 Timothy 2:1-6, 2 Peter 3:9)

Article II - Membership

Section A: Qualifications

1. Anyone who has reached an age of accountability (as determined by the pastor and Elders) and who meets the conditions set for in Article I, Section B, and requests membership in this congregation shall become a member.

Section B: Termination of Membership

1. Any member may request that his or her membership be terminated at any time.
2. In certain circumstances, membership may be terminated at the discretion of the Elders, subject to Biblical guidelines (Matthew 18:15-17, Romans 16:17, Titus 3:10).

Section C: Active and Inactive Memberships

1. Membership can be either Active or Inactive. Membership of an individual will be considered Active if they have attended any one service during the week in at least 50% of the weeks in the preceding 3 months.
2. Only Active members may cast votes in congregational meetings. Special consideration may be given for inactive or absentee members, allowing them to vote, at the discretion of the majority of the elders.

Article III: Leadership

The CCC government is built around three teams of people:

- A. The Elders
- B. The Staff
- C. The Board

Section A: Elders

1. Number of Elders

(1)The board of elders is comprised of no fewer than two and no more than five men.

2. The Purpose of Elders

(1)Elders function primarily as discerners and guardians of the organization. They are not expected to oversee specific projects or ministry areas in their capacity as elders, though they may choose to do so. They function as overseers for the entire congregation. The elders evaluate the effectiveness and direction of the organization according to three criteria:

- 1. The organization's mission: Being, finding, and building disciples of Jesus Christ.

2. The organization's resources.
3. The organization's doctrine:
 - (2) Elders are responsible for evaluating programming yearly based on its appropriateness and effectiveness in furthering the overall mission of CCC.
 - (3) The senior pastor and the elders will meet as needed.
3. The Qualifications of an Elder
 - (1) All elders are required to meet the qualifications for elder/overseer as outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-11, Titus 1:5-9.
 - (2) Elders should be chosen from men who are already performing the shepherding function among the membership of CCC. Thus, recognizing authority and value of the individual rather than searching to fill a gap.
4. The Authority of an Elder
 - (1) The elders have final say in any and all matters concerning the overall direction of the organization. Votes require a simple majority.
 - (2) The Elders are responsible to act as legal agents of the church in all business matters. They shall handle all legal papers and perform such duties as required by local, state, and federal levels of government. The Elders may designate Trustees to aide and advise them in these matters.
5. There is no set term for an Elder. Each Elder will serve until:
 - (1) He no longer desires to serve in this capacity.
 - (2) He no longer has time or no longer makes the commitment required of an Elder.
 - (3) He is no longer fulfilling the role of a shepherd.
 - (4) He has a radical change in attitude, lifestyle, or doctrine which would necessitate his stepping out of the role, as per Section A.3
 - (5) Removal of an Elder can be made by a simple majority of the Elders.
 - (6) The board may remove an Elder by a simple majority if it is deemed necessary.
6. The Election of Elders
 - (1) Each Elder will be nominated by the elders and presented to the congregation for ratification by a 2/3 majority vote.
 - (2) If there are less than 2 active Elders, then the congregation shall select from among themselves such men qualified and willing to serve in the office. If two or more elders are not actively serving for a period of 90 days, the trustee(s) shall commence dissolution of the congregation.

Section B: Staff

1. Pastor

- (1) He is responsible for planning, delegating, and organizing the regular events of the church.
- (2) The senior pastor is responsible for recommending, management, and retention of staff. If terminating a staff member becomes necessary, the pastor will present evidences for termination to the elders.
- (4) His salary will be determined and approved by the elders.
- (5) His length of service shall be for an indefinite period of time.

- (6)The term of ministry may be terminated giving 60 days notice either by the pastor or by the termination process as outlined in Section B.3.(1)
2. Electing a New Senior Pastor
- (1)When the position of senior pastor is vacated, the elders will take appropriate action to secure a qualified candidate to serve as senior pastor. The elders will recommend the candidate to the membership. Approval by the congregation must be accepted by at least a 2/3 majority vote.
3. Terminating a Senior Pastor
- (1)If there comes such a time that the elders believe that the Senior Pastor cannot or should not continue in his position, the elders must vote by a 2/3 majority to bring the matter before the board. Termination requires a majority board vote to pass.
4. Other staff (paid) serve under the authority of the senior pastor as per Section B.1.(2)
- (1)All staff will be provided with a written job description and expectations.
- (2)The senior pastor will provide regular feedback and oversight to all staff, paid and volunteer.
- (3)The purpose of this group is to determine programming, give direction to the various ministries of the organization, and oversee the day-to-day operations.
- (4)All staff members are expected to meet the basic character qualifications, as outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.
- (5)New staff positions must be approved by the board.
5. Ministry leaders (unpaid) will be appointed as needs arise. They will look to the Senior Pastor for guidance in actively promoting and facilitating the vision and mission of CCC.
- (1)Ministry leaders shall be approved by the elders.
6. Budget
- (1)The staff, in conjunction with the ministry leaders, will develop project budgets which will be presented to the board for approval.

Section C: Board

1. The church board shall be composed of Elders, Ministers, Ministry Leaders, and Agents. Voting members will be the same.
2. It shall be the duty of the board to:
- (1)Elect Agents to assume the roles of chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, and treasurer.
- (2)Meet quarterly or as needed, at a time and a place to be decided as best fits the needs of the membership, to consider and decide general church business.
- (3)Meet in special session as required considering business of present concern. Special sessions may be called by the chairman, vice-chairman, or the Elders.
- (4)Refer to the Elders matters that they feel need to go before the congregation for consideration.
- (5)Consider any other matter that is appropriate.
3. Duties of the Agents.

(1)It shall be the duty of the chairman to call and preside at all regular and special board meetings as well as congregational meetings and to perform such other duties as given him by these by-laws or by the authority of the congregation and/or the board.

(2)It shall be the duty of the vice-chairman to assume the duties of the chairman in the event of his absence.

(3)It shall be the duty of the secretary to keep an accurate and up-to-date record of all meetings of the board and congregation.

(4)It shall be the duty of the treasurer to keep an accurate and up-to-date record of all financial income of the church, make bank deposits, and disburse all funds as directed by the board. The treasurer shall also present an annual financial report to the congregation.

Article IV. Congregational Meetings

1. A congregational meeting will be scheduled annually or as needed. This will provide a forum for handling the business of CCC not otherwise reserved for the elders or the board. The board shall schedule the annual business meeting. All issues voted on in an official organizational meeting require a two-thirds affirmative vote to pass.

2. The chairman of the board will be the moderator for all organizational business meetings.

3. Matters properly before and passed at business meetings shall be binding on the organization.

4. The Elders and the board have the authority to call special congregational meetings. The board may do so by presenting a petition to the elders, which includes the signatures of two-thirds of the board. The Board Chairman will then schedule the meeting and publish the agenda at least two weeks in advance. The Elders may waive the two week notice by a majority vote.

Article V. Other Business

1. Amending or Adopting By-Laws

(1). Amending or adopting By-Laws require a two-thirds majority vote by the Elders. The changes will be then forwarded to the board for a full vote, also requiring a 2/3 majority to pass. The Board Chairman will then call a congregational meeting. The By-Laws will be presented and need a 2/3 congregational vote to pass.

2. Ordination, Licensing and Commissioning

(1)CCC reserves the right to ordain, license, or commission individuals as ministers of the gospel to perform the ordinances and ceremonies of the church including, but not limited to, marriage, baptism, communion, and funerals.

3. Facilities Use Policy

(1)The use of the facilities, name, and ministries of CCC shall be consistent with the statements of Purpose and Belief in Article I.

(2) All facility use outside of regular ministry activities shall be approved by the Elders.

4. Dissolution and Liquidation of the Church

(1) The elders may determine to cease activities of CCC, dissolve, and liquidate the corporation by a 2/3 vote. This will then be presented at a congregational meeting requiring a two-thirds majority vote and requires a minimum participation of 25 percent of the membership of CCC. This will constitute a quorum.

(2) Upon dissolution of the church, the Elders (or their legal agents) shall pay or make provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the church and shall thereafter dispose of all of the assets of the church as the elders deem appropriate.