

## BYLAWS OF COVENANT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

**PREAMBLE:** The earliest church was a grassroots movement of Christ's followers. They shared a love of Christ, were committed to each other, and took their message to the world. Today we, too, must journey up, journey in, and journey out. This happens through our covenant with God, each other, and the world to share our talents, time, and gifts.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** We are spiritual seekers working to grow in our love of God, deepening our connection to each other, and sharing with the world our passion for justice and peace.

**COVENANT CHRISTIAN CHURCH:** We will adhere to the principles of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and are open to all believers in Christ.

### ARTICLE 1 Church Board

**1.1. Composition of Board.** The church board shall be responsible for church finances, salaried personnel, and ensuring that each journey teams follows its team mission statement. The board shall consist of the minister, chair, prior year's chair, chair-elect, board secretary, financial officer, treasurer, and one or more members at large. There shall be one member at large if the church has 200 or fewer families; three members at large if the church has 201 to 400 families; and five members at large if the church has 401 or more families.

**1.2. Election.** Proposed board members shall be selected by the current board, and approved by the voting members at the annual congregational meeting.

**1.3. Terms.** The chair shall be elected annually. The secretary and financial officer shall be elected in even-numbered years. The treasurer and member at large shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The member at large shall be elected biannually, and where more than one member at large is serving, then their terms shall be staggered so that not all members at large are elected the same year. A board member may not serve consecutive terms in the same board position.

**1.4. Meetings.** The board shall meet quarterly, or more often in the discretion of the chair. A simple majority of board members plus one shall constitute a quorum. Votes shall be determined by simple majority of board members present at the meeting.

**1.5. Recordkeeping.** The secretary shall be responsible for meeting minutes and recordkeeping, and shall provide all minutes and records to the church secretary, who shall retain them permanently.

**1.6. Financial Matters.** The financial officer shall be responsible for receipts, deposits, and church stewardship. The treasurer shall be responsible for the budget, paying bills, balancing the checkbook, and maintaining any savings account or investment.

**1.7. Agreements.** An agreement shall not be binding upon the church unless the same is in writing, and signed by the chair and one other board member. The church secretary shall retain permanently a copy of each agreement.

## **ARTICLE 2 Congregational Meetings**

**2.1. Regular and Special Meetings.** A regular meeting of the congregation shall be held in the fall of each year. A special meeting of the congregation may be held at the discretion of the chair. Notice of a regular or special congregational meeting shall be posted with agenda no less than two weeks prior to the meeting.

**2.2. Voting.** A simple majority of voting members plus one shall constitute a quorum. Votes shall be determined by simple majority of voting members present at the meeting, except that revoking or amending the bylaws shall require a 2/3rds majority vote. A voting member must be present at a meeting to vote at the meeting. A church member may vote if he or she is 12 years or older, and either participates in no fewer than six church-sponsored activities per year or is a regular financial contributor to the church.

## **ARTICLE 3 Journey Teams**

**3.1. Journey Teams.** The direction of the church shall be determined by four journey teams: Journey Out, Journey In, Journey Up, and Physical Plant. Each team shall prepare and adopt a team mission statement, and shall have a board-member liaison assigned to it.

**A. Journey Out Team.** The Journey Out team shall be responsible for taking the church mission statement outside the church, sharing with the world our passion for justice and peace. The Journey Out team will work tirelessly to bring our members into contact with the community and world so that our experience of God's love may have a real and lasting impact on others.

**B. Journey In Team.** The Journey In team shall be responsible for taking the church mission statement to church participants, deepening our connection to each other. The Journey In team will create fellowship and small-group opportunities for members of our community to deepen our connection to each other, and encourage the deepening of relationships with a variety of communication tools.

**C. Journey Up Team.** The Journey Up team shall be responsible for the spiritual growth and well-being of the church growing in our love of God. The Journey Up team will create experiences and provide resources for people to grow in love of God through spiritual practices, worship, and study.

**D. Physical Plant Team.** Physical Plant team shall be responsible for all matters relating to the church building and property.

**3.2. Leadership.** Each team shall select a team leader annually. The term of a team leader shall be one year. A person may not serve consecutive terms as team leader.

**3.3. Formation.** A team shall consist of individuals who agree on the annual covenant form to serve on the team. Within six months of distribution of the covenant form, each team leader shall distribute a team covenant form to all team members to assist the team members in determining how each team member may best be able to serve.

**3.4. Regular and Special Meetings.** A regular meeting of each team shall be held in the fall of each year. A special meeting of a team may be held at the discretion of the team leader.

**3.5. Budget.** Each team shall receive an annual budget approved by the board. A team may allocate its budget in any way that will further its mission statement; provided, however, that the board may veto any activity or expenditure it deems outside the team's mission statement or not in the best interest of the church as a whole. A team shall not make any expenditure beyond its budget without first raising sufficient funds to cover such expenditure and obtaining prior board approval.

#### **ARTICLE 4 Minister**

**4.1. Duties of Minister.** The minister shall be a non-voting member of the board, and shall serve as a resource for the journey teams. The minister shall serve as mediator for conflicts within or between the board, a journey team, and the congregation. The exact nature of the minister's duties shall be set forth in the employment contract.

**4.2. Vacancy in Office.** If a minister cannot perform the duties of the position, is terminated, or resigns, then the board shall select an interim minister with the aid of the regional office. The board shall then select an ad hoc committee of five members, with no more than one member serving on the current board, to find a new minister. The board shall be responsible for negotiating and approving the minister's salary, benefits, and job description.

**4.3. Pastoral Relations.** A pastoral-relations committee shall exist as set forth in the minister's contract.

#### **ARTICLE 5 Auxiliary Organizations**

**5.1. Formation.** An auxiliary organization may be formed upon prior board approval, and shall cooperate and be coordinated with the church mission statement.

**5.2. Property.** If an auxiliary organization dissolves or is inactive for two years, then all its funds, personal property, and real property shall revert to the church.

These Bylaws are adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2012.

COVENANT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Its Board Secretary