

# ONLINE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Online Christian Church, henceforth referred to as The Church, accepts the Bible as its authority. The Bylaws are intended to apply biblical concepts to establish the structure and function of this church body. These Bylaws establish The Church's interpretation of these biblical concepts.

## Tenants of Faith

1. The scriptures are inspired by the Spirit of God and the basis for all teachings within the church. 2 Timothy 3:16, All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
2. There is one true God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel. Mark 12:29, "And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord."
3. Jesus is the Son of God. We accept Him as our Lord. We will obey His commandment to love one another, 1 John 3:23. We do not attack other Christians.
4. This ministry operates under God's principles. Our Lord stated in Matthew 10:8, "freely ye have received, freely give." All materials, prayer, and meetings shall be free.
5. The Church is to only use authority established by the word of God. Romans 13:1-2, "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation."

## BYLAWS

### ARTICLE I

#### NAME AND ASSOCIATION

##### Online Christian Church

This congregation is an online church throughout the world and incorporated under the laws of the State of Idaho. Regular meetings will be held at 11367 W. Andromeda Drive, Star, Idaho, and broadcast live.

Church Mailing Address:

PO Box 234  
Star, Idaho 83669

## ARTICLE II

### ORGANIZATION PURPOSE

Online Christian Church, Inc. shall be organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law in order to:

1. Minister the Word of God through the internet, books, and other forms of communication.
2. Conduct regular religious worship services through various forms of ministries.
3. Conduct international and local churches by the direction of the Lord Jesus Christ and under the leadership of the Holy Spirit in accordance with all the provisions as set forth in the Bible.
4. Provide teachings and support to local ministries.
5. Promote and encourage, through ministries of the organization, cooperation with other organizations ministering within the same beliefs and guidelines of the church as approved by leadership.
6. Maintain a local church and missionary facilities.
7. Conduct online courses of study for believers.
8. To have the right to own, hold in trust, use, possess, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or dispose of such property, real or chattel, as may be needed for the prosecution of its work.

## ARTICLE III

### A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

Online Christian Church, Inc. is not organized, nor shall it operate, for pecuniary gain or profit, and it does not contemplate the distribution of gains, profits, or dividends to its members and is organized solely for non-profit purposes. The property, assets, profits and net income of this church are irrevocably dedicated to charitable, educational, and religious purposes and no part of the profits or net income of this church shall ever be used to the benefit of any individual. On the dissolution of this church, its assets remaining after payment, or provision or payment of all debts and liabilities of this church shall be distributed to a nonprofit fund, foundation, or corporation that is organized and operated for

charitable, educational, ecclesiastical, or religious purposes and that has established its tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

## ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

### A. Definition

The Church does not record membership except for the purpose of registration and communication on the website in order to receive prayer and attend meetings. As long as behavior is respectful, all are welcome at online and in-person meetings. The belief and behavior of those who attend past or present meetings is between themselves and God unless it is deemed harmful to others. The purpose of the Church is to help facilitate a relationship with God the Father, Jesus His Son, and the Holy Spirit our Teacher.

### B. Mutual Interest

The behavior of anyone in fellowship with this church is of common interest to the Pastors, Elders, and those who attend meetings. (Gal. 6:1) The Church reserves the right to refuse service to any individual at the discretion of the Leader and Board of Elders should their actions:

1. Be deemed harmful to others.
2. Attack other Christians.
3. Create division, strife, or undermine the leadership of the Church.

## ARTICLE V CHURCH GOVERNMENT

The Lord Jesus Christ is recognized as the Head of the Church. The oversight and authority The church is vested first in the Senior Pastor and then in Elders who will comprise the ruling body of the church and as a body have the power and authority to act on behalf of the Church.

The Church comprises both a spiritual body and a legal body. Because of this, the Senior Pastor serves as the spiritual leader of the congregation determining the direction of the Church with a governing body of Elders as support. As such, the Senior Pastor also acts as the Trustees in all major financial and business matters of the Online Christian Church Association and seeks to be led by the Holy Spirit in all its decisions with advice from the Elders. The Office of the Senior Pastor is responsible for developing and communicating the vision, delegating the day-to-day ministry of the church to the Elders, and general care for the congregation. The Elders are to protect the church through counsel, prayer, and to serve the church as directed by the Senior Pastor. The Senior Pastor, with the support as needed

from the Elders/Board of Directors, may authorize any officer or officers, agents or agents of the corporation, in addition to the officers so authorized by these Bylaws, to enter into any contract or to execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the corporation. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances as the Senior Pastor sees fit.

## PASTOR AND PRESIDENT

### **Section 1. Term of Office:**

The Senior Pastor is the President of the Association and shall hold this office until their death or until they resign. Additional Pastors may be appointed from Elders of the church when a pastoral calling is revealed by the Lord as necessary by the Senior Pastor.

### **Section 2. Vacancy of Senior Pastorate:**

The vacancy shall be filled by the appointment of a new Senior Pastor by the departing Senior Pastor or the Board of Elders when the departing Senior Pastor is not available to do so. In some cases a Pulpit Search Committee may be selected who will search for pastoral candidates and submit them to the departing pastor and/or elders for final approval. (Joshua 1, 1 Kings 19:19-21, 2 Kings 2:1-14).

### **Section 3. Duties of Senior Pastor:**

The Senior Pastor shall be considered the spiritual overseer of the church and shall direct all the church activities. She shall preside over all business meetings of the church and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and departments.

#### A. It is the Pastor/President's responsibility to:

1. Provide Biblical vision and direction for the congregation.
2. Provide general care and ministry for the congregation, either personally, or through other ministries of the Church as she appoints, as well as all functions.
3. Define and communicate the Church's purpose.
4. Oversee and coordinate the day-to-day ministry of the congregation and administration of the church.
5. Nominate Elders
6. Recognize and enlist apostolic, prophetic, evangelistic, pastoral and teaching ministries, along with that of Elders, and additional staff members, as she deems Biblical and necessary for the healthy and balanced spiritual ministry to the body of believers.

7. Staff the church as she deems necessary to help administer the affairs of the association.

## **B. The Senior Pastor/President's Spiritual Leadership**

1. The Senior Pastor/President is the Lead Elder and shall serve as chairman of all meetings of the Elders.
2. The Senior Pastor/President of this ministry shall by virtue of his/her office automatically be recognized as an ordained minister.
3. In the role of Senior Pastor/President, they may work with Overseers, Elders, or anyone serving in any five-fold ministry offices as outlined in Ephesians 4:11-13 in any way that they determine is Biblical.

In addition, she may budget monies, hire staff, develop projects or ministry, and create small groups or other specialized ministries according to her convictions and Biblical understanding, subject to the counsel and direction of the Elders. She shall have the authority to appoint and approve any assistants that are necessary to properly carry on the work of the church.

## **c. The Senior Pastor/President's Responsibility for Services**

Times, order of services, and the leadership of services are to be approved by the Senior Pastor. No person shall be invited to speak, teach or minister at a service held in Church-owned facilities, or in the name of the church, without the approval of the Senior Pastor/President or the appropriate member of the established church pastoral ministry team.

## **d. The Office of the Senior Pastor/President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**

The Senior Pastor/President Shall serve as the Pastor/President and CEO of the Association. The Senior Pastor/President and CEO are hereinafter, in most instances, referred to as the Senior Pastor/President. If possible, they shall preside at all meetings of the Elders and shall see that all orders and resolutions of the Elders are put into effect. They shall execute in the name of the association all deeds, bonds, mortgages, contracts, and other documents authorized by the Elders. They shall be an ex-officio member of all standing committees, and shall have the general powers and duties of supervision and management usually vested in the office of the Senior Pastor/President of an association.

### **E. The Senior Pastor/President's and CEO's Role in Administration.**

The Senior Pastor/President is the senior administrator of the church. She is ultimately responsible for all day-to-day administrative decisions of the church.

### **F. The Senior Pastor/President's Role with Staff**

The Pastor/President provides direction for the church staff either directly or through those whom she appoints. All staff hiring and firing is done through the Pastor.

### **G. The Senior Pastor/President's Role with the Budget**

An annual budget must be prepared by the Senior Pastor and staff each year. All salaries for work done within the church is subject to provision provided by the Lord through tithes and offerings. It is understood by all who accept salary positions that should the church operate outside the will of the Lord, provision may be affected. The lack of provision will first be reflected the following way:

50% of the shortfall from the Senior Pastor's salary  
50% of the shortfall from the remaining staff gifts and salaries

## **Section 4. Support of Pastors**

The Pastors shall be supported according to her needs, either by free-will offerings or by stated allowance as shall be decided upon in the regular business sessions.

## **BOARD OF ELDERS**

The Board of Elders shall be appointed by the Senior Pastor. They are to be called upon to fulfill duties as led by the Lord and assigned by the Senior Pastor. All spiritual activities are originally on a volunteer basis, however, monthly gifts may be given as determined by those who receive from God through them and by the Senior Pastor. If consistent volunteer hours are appointed and exceed five hours per week, a salary may be assigned by the Senior Pastor.

Secular duties, such as administrative functions fulfilled by elders may yield salary compensation.

Elders shall also, along with the Senior Pastor, seek God's direction for the church, and support the pastor in the vision given them by God, in the church's present and future

ministry. Elders shall remain so until they resign or are deemed unfit according to the testimony of two or three witnesses.

## Requirements

The following biblical mandates, found in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-16, must be evident in individuals nominated for eldership.

## Leadership Qualifications

The following additional leadership qualities must be evident in individuals being nominated for Eldership:

- a. Proven record of leadership experience
- b. Able to think critically, abstractly, and globally through issues
- c. Able to receive and offer constructive criticism
- d. Possess the spiritual gifts of leadership and/or administration

## Unique Qualifications

The following qualifications unique to the Church community must be evident in individuals being nominated for eldership:

- In agreement with Church's Statement of Faith
- In agreement with Church's Bylaws
- In agreement with Online Christian Church's philosophy and style of ministry
- In agreement with the Board's chosen style of governance
- Able to identify and use their personal spiritual gifts
- A proven track record of working well with people
- A desire to serve in various ministry capacities within Online Christian Church
- Attends Online Christian Church on a consistent basis
- General support from their immediate family members

## Spiritual Qualifications

- Worthy of respect:
- Honorable, financially ethical, of good character
- Not deceitful or evasive
- Not a double talker, but sincere in what they say -no gossip or talebearers
- Not addicted to alcohol
- Not greedy for base gain, craving wealth and resorting to ignoble and dishonest methods of getting it
- Not gossipers
- Temperate and self-controlled

- Trustworthy in all things
- Husbands of but one wife • 1 spouse
- They manage their children well
- Manage their own households well • Finances are in order, or working on getting in order

## **Appointment**

When the Senior Pastor, in consultation with the Elders, believes a church member is performing, or is capable of performing, the function of an Elder, the Pastor/Elders will interview the candidate to determine qualifications, call, and willingness to serve.

After the evaluation process is completed, the person will be recommended to the Lord as a potential Elder. After the discernment and comment period, allowing time to respond, the Senior Pastor and the Elders will formalize the decision by announcing it to the Church.

## **Term**

The Elder shall hold this office until his/her death or until resignation. The Pastor will give a formal or informal review every year. They may choose to involve the Elders in the review process. If warranted, a review can be done earlier. The term can be ended in light of the following:

The Elder resigns.

1. The Senior Pastor, in consultation with the Board of Elders, calls for it because of serious moral failure, insubordination, ongoing difference of vision, or if the Elder is not fulfilling, or cannot fulfill, the requirements of the office. Depending on the situation, immediate resignation may be requested. The congregation shall then be notified.
2. Elders may volunteer to be placed in inactive status if they feel they are temporarily unable to fulfill all the responsibilities of the position. For example, an Elder could request inactive status during an extended recuperation period for a medical condition.
3. The Senior Pastor, in consultation with the Board of Elders, will consider the request.

## **DEACONS**

The Senior Pastor and/or Board of Elders shall appoint the Board of Deacons. They shall provide assistance as deemed by the Pastor. These duties could include technical assistance or assisting with discussions/classes. These duties will be assigned by the Lord and approved



by the Pastor. The following biblical mandates, found in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-16, must be evident in individuals nominated for deaconship.

### **Requirements:**

### **Qualifications of a Deacon:**

- Worthy of respect
- Honorable, financially ethical, of good character
- Not shifty
- Not a double talker, but sincere in what they say -no gossip or talebearers
- Not addicted to alcohol
- Not greedy for base gain craving wealth and resorting to ignoble and dishonest methods of getting it
- Not gossiper
- Temperate and self-controlled
- Trustworthy in all things
- Husbands of but one wife • 1 spouse
- They manage their children well
- Manage their own households well • Finances are in order, or working on getting in order

In case of a lack of qualified persons to fill the Board of Deacons, the Elders shall act as the Deacons until the Board of Deacons is established.

### **VACANCY OF OFFICES**

The Senior Pastor/President of the Association shall have the authority to declare any office vacant. Grounds for such action shall be:

1. Failure to cooperate with the church's program and ministry.
2. Unscriptural conduct.
3. Doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith.
4. For any good and sufficient cause. Any incumbent under charges shall have an opportunity for a fair and impartial hearing before the joint meeting of the Board of Elders shall be considered final and the incumbent may have no further recourse.

## ARTICLE VII

### MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings for Worship. Meetings for public worship shall be held on each Lord's Day and during the week as may be provided for under the direction of the Senior Pastor.

Section 2. Annual business meeting. There shall be an Annual Business Meeting of Online Christian Church. This business meeting shall be held at the end of the fiscal year. This meeting shall be conducted in the designated auditorium of Online Christian Church. New Pastors, Elders and Deacons shall be installed, and all reports shall be read at the Annual Business Meeting.

Section 3. Special business meetings. Special business meetings of the legal members may be called by the pastor or by a written petition of three-fourths (3/4) of the legal membership.

Section 4. Notice of business meetings. Written or online notice of the date and place of the Annual Business Meeting and of any special business meetings shall be sent by regular mail to all active members at least ten (10) days and not more than thirty days prior to such meeting. In addition, the Senior Pastor shall announce such a meeting at the worship services of (insert name of church) at least ten (10) days prior to such meeting.

Section 5. Quorum. No record of any special or regular business meetings of (insert name of church) shall be made unless one-half (1/2) or more legal members are present to constitute a quorum.

Section 6. Order of Business. The regular order of business for the Annual Business Meeting of Online Christian Church) shall be as follows:

1. Devotional.
2. Reading of previous minutes.
3. Report of the treasurer.
4. Report of committees.
5. Unfinished Matters.
6. Installation of officers.
7. New Matters Arising.
8. Adjournment.

This order of business may be altered or suspended at any meeting by a majority vote of the members present. The usual parliamentary rules as laid down in "Robert's Rules of Order" shall govern all debates when not in conflict with this Constitution.

## ARTICLE VIII

### FINANCES

- A. Fiscal Year
  - a. The fiscal year of the corporation shall be the calendar year.
- B. Contracts
  - a. The Trustees may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents of the corporation, in addition to the officers so authorized by these Bylaws, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the corporation. Such authority may be general or may be confined to specific instances.
- C. Checks, Drafts, or Orders.
  - a. All checks, drafts, orders for the payment of money, notes, or other evidence of indebtedness issued in the name of the corporation shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents of the corporation, and in such manner, as shall from time to time.

## ARTICLE IX PROPERTY

The Officers of Online Christian Church shall have the power to carry out all of the purposes and powers set forth in Article II. The Senior Pastor/President and the Secretary-Treasurer's signatures shall be sufficient certificates for negotiating any and all of the provided powers in said Articles.

All church property that was purchased by the organization or donated to the organization must be returned to the organization upon a staff member leaving or resigning unless other written arrangements have been made and approved by the Senior Pastor in writing.

Upon assignment of church property an agreement will be signed by the person using the equipment that will outline the terms of this agreement.

## ARTICLE X AMENDMENT

This Constitution may be amended or changed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the officers (directors) at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided due notice of such proposed change shall have been made.

## ARTICLE XI ORGANIZATION

The Online Christian Church is organized exclusively for charitable, religious and educational purposes, including the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as

exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

## ARTICLE XII CONDUCT OF ORGANIZATION

No part of the net earnings of the Online Christian Church shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

## CHURCH DISCIPLINE

### **A. Disciplining Church Members.**

All correction of members is intended to restore the sinning member to full fellowship with the Lord and the church. Every member who continues in sin without repentance will be addressed privately and given the opportunity to repent and be restored. If the member refuses to repent, two or three members will go together to address him or her. If the member persists in his or her refusal, the matter may be brought to the attention of the Senior Pastor and/or Elders. If the member will not turn from the actions, the Elders/Pastor may agree upon an appropriate form of discipline, including removal from church membership. (Galatians 6:1; Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:5)

### **B. Disciplining the Leadership.**

Criteria for Discipline: Should the leadership (Elders/Pastors) demonstrate immoral conduct, financial practices, or theological views that, in the opinion of two or more Elders may require personal correction, they will first go to the person in question. If the member will not turn from the actions, they will be brought before the Senior Pastor by the Elders so the actions may be evaluated. Should the actions be deemed sin and the offender is still

unwilling to turn from the actions, the actions will be put before the church, and the leader shall be removed. (Galatians 6:1; Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:5)

## ARTICLE XIII DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the the Online Christian Church, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.