

# Oakwood Community Church Constitution

## ARTICLE I: Name

The name of this church shall be known as Oakwood Community Church (nondenominational)

## ARTICLE II: Purpose

As the local body of believers at Oakwood Community Church, we resolve to:

1. Glorify and honor God in all that we do, through obedience to His Word, and by giving Him our thanks, our praise, and our worship.
2. Fulfill our part of Christ's command to "make disciples of all nations". To lead others to recognize their own sin and to recognize and accept the lordship of Jesus Christ by proclaiming to all people the good news of Christ's death for our sins, His burial, and bodily resurrection from the grave.
3. Administer the ordinances. To baptize professing believers by immersion, as an identification with the body of Christ, bearing testimony to the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, and our spiritual union with Him. To invite the Body of Christ to share in the communion of the Lord's Supper, in remembrance of Him.
4. Bring disciples to full maturity in the faith. To actively encourage and support the spiritual growth of the local body of Christ through preaching, teaching, and the study of His Word, and through prayer, fellowship, and service.

## ARTICLE III: Statement of Belief

### Scripture:

1. We believe the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, as originally written, to be inspired of God and inerrant (completely true and without error). They are our supreme and final authority in all matters of faith, both doctrine and practice. (*2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21*)

### The Trinity

2. We believe that there is but one true and living God. The Godhead consists of three eternally distinct persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (*Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 1:26-35; John 14:15-26; 2 Peter 1:16-21*)
  - a. We believe the Father to be co-equal with the Son and the Holy Spirit. He is eternal, of infinite power and wisdom, and creator of all things. (*Genesis 1:1-2; Isaiah 45:5; Deuteronomy 6:4; Jeremiah 10:10; Psalms 147:5; Colossians 2:9-10; Matthew 28:19; Luke 1:26-35; John 1:1-2, 14; John 14:16,26; Acts 5:3-4; Romans 1:19-20; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Hebrews 1:1-4*)
  - b. We believe the Son, Jesus Christ to be the eternal Son of God and co-equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus became flesh, being born of the Virgin Mary. He died for our sins on the cross. Jesus died, was buried, and rose again, according to the Scriptures as a substitutionary sacrifice for our sins. (*Matthew 28:19-20; Hebrews 1:1-3; John 1:1-3, 14; John 14:16-26; Luke 1:26-35; 1-Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 3:22b-25a; Colossians 2:9; 2 Peter 1:16-21*)

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- c. We believe the Holy Spirit to be co-equal with the Father and the Son. He came as a fulfillment of Christ's promise. The Holy Spirit indwells and works through every believer in Jesus Christ. He instructs, teaches, sanctifies, and leaves the natural body with the soul and spirit of man at death to indwell the spiritual body. (*Matthew 28:19; Luke 1:26-35; John 14:16-26; Acts 5:3-4; Romans 15:15-16; 2 Corinthians 5:1-8; 2 Peter 1:16-21*)

### **Sin and Salvation:**

3. We believe that man was created in the image of God. Man sinned and incurred not only physical death and spiritual death, but also eternal separation from God. We believe that all men are born with a sinful nature and, if we do not repent, we are eternally lost. (*Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; James 2*)
4. We believe that every person is born with a free will and given the power of choice. A person can either accept or reject God's offer of salvation. (*Genesis 2:16-17; John 1:12-13; John 3:16; John 5:24*)
5. We believe we are saved by grace through faith. We are saved through faith alone in the shed blood, death, and resurrection of Christ on the cross. All who place their trust in Christ Jesus are justified on the grounds of His shed blood, death, and resurrection, and not by works. (*Romans 4:16,23-25; Romans 5:1-2; Ephesians 2:8-9; Ephesians 1:7; Romans 3:28*)

### **Resurrection:**

6. We believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ who was crucified on the cross. He ascended into heaven, and is our High Priest and advocate with the Father. (*Acts 1:3; Acts 1:9; 1 Corinthians 15:3-28; Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 John 2:1-2*)
7. We believe in the personal and soon return of our Lord Jesus Christ. (*Acts 1:10-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*)
8. We believe in the bodily resurrection of both believers and nonbelievers. Those who repent and accept God's forgiveness shall dwell in everlasting blessedness in heaven. Those who reject this forgiveness shall dwell in everlasting punishment in hell. (*1 Corinthians 15:42-44; John 14:1-3; Revelation 21:8*)

### **The Church:**

9. We believe that the true Church is composed of believers in Christ. No creed, color, denomination, congregation or male or female has any preference in the sight of God. Christ is the Head and we, the Church, are members of His Body. We believe that the local church is a group of believers in Christ upholding the Word of Christ in a world for whom He died. (*Galatians 3:25-29; Colossians 1:15-20; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31*)
10. We accept and practice the two ordinances as taught by Jesus, the Lord's Supper, and baptism. (*1-Corinthians 11:23-26; Matthew 28:19*)
11. We believe that every Christian should apply his life in service for Jesus Christ. (*James 1:22-25*) Every Christian should have a passion for the lost and should always do their best to win them to Christ. (*Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:18-20*)
12. We believe that every believer in Christ should give as the Lord prospers him for spreading of the Gospel. Our giving is not unto man, but as an act of worship. (*1 Corinthians 16:1-3; 2-Corinthians 9:6-8; Matthew 6:1-4*)

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## **ARTICLE IV: Church Government**

1. Oakwood Community Church is an independent, self-governing body and acknowledges Jesus Christ as its head.
2. Oakwood Community Church's Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind. The Bible is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Oakwood Community Church's doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the Board of Elders is Oakwood Community Church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.
3. The representative governing body of Oakwood Community Church is its Board of Elders, subject to the conditions set forth in the by-laws. The Board of Elders, also known as Elders, is the legal board of the corporation. The Elders are to direct and regulate all the various activities of the Church, its ministries, and its auxiliary organizations.
4. The members shall meet annually. They could also meet for special business if asked by the Board of Elders, or a group of members subject to the conditions of the by-laws.

## **ARTICLE V: Disposition of Assets**

If Oakwood Community Church should dissolve, the assets remaining after payment of all debts and obligations will be donated to a non-profit or charitable organization, with preference to Oakwood's supported ministries, at the discretion of the Board of Elders. No leader or member of Oakwood Community Church shall receive any benefit.

## **ARTICLE VI: Amendments**

This constitution can only be amended at an official business meeting of Oakwood Community Church, by a 2/3 affirmative vote by active and present members only. Written notice of any such amendment must be sent to all active members at least four weeks prior to the scheduled meeting.