

Community Christian Church By-Laws

General Statement of Purpose and Objective:

We the members of Community Christian Church, Fort Scott, Kansas, individually dedicate our lives in consecrated devotion to the ideals, principles, and teachings of Jesus Christ, and collectively pledge ourselves to uphold and follow the example of the Church as found in the New Testament. The purpose of said congregation shall be to conduct a Church which is known among religious bodies as the non-denominational Christian Church, and whose members are known as Christians only, and which Church shall be Elder governed in form of government and shall have no creed or articles of faith other than those contained in the New Testament.

Article I: Name

For business and legal purposes, the name of this congregation shall be Community Christian Church.

Article II: Membership

1. The membership of Community Christian Church believes and affirms the Statement of Faith as follows:

Statement of Faith

We believe in one God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (*John 14:9-20; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 5:1-12*)

- **We believe in God the Father** Almighty, Creator of all things visible and invisible. (*Genesis 1:1; Matthew 5:16, 45; 6:1, 4, 8, 9; Acts 17:24-28; Hebrews 11:3; James 1:17*)
- **We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God**, the eternal Word, the one and only Savior. (*John 1:1, 14, 29; 3:16; Philippians 2:6-11; Colossians 1:15-19; 1 John 4:9*)
 - Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, both fully human and fully divine; Who lived a sinless life; Who suffered and was crucified as an atonement for sin; Who rose again bodily from the dead on the third day and ascended into Heaven. (*Luke 1:26-35; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 4:15; Romans 5:15-17; Luke 22:47-24:53; John 20:24-29; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; Acts 1:1-9; Colossians 3:1; Revelation 1:7-8, 11:15*)
 - Who will return to the earth in victory to rule forever as the King of all kings and Lord of all lords; Who will establish a new earth and a new heaven, restoring all things; Who will reign forever with those who trusted in his name. (*1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 19:28; Acts 1:11, 3:21; Colossians 1:19-20*)
- **We believe in the Holy Spirit.**
 - Who convicts the world of sin; Who indwells every Christian; Who helps us in our weakness and intercedes for us in prayer; and Who empowers us to a fruitful Christian life. (*John 16:8; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; 2 Timothy 1:14; Romans 8:26; Galatians 5:22-23*)

We believe in the Bible—God's Holy Word, Scripture

- We believe God inspired the original writings of the Scripture. (*Mark 12:36; John 14:26, 16:12-15; Acts 1:16; 1 Corinthians 2:12-13; 2 Timothy 3:14-16; 2 Peter 1:20-21*)
- We believe that Scripture is the final authority for all matters of faith, truth, morality, and Christian living. (*Isaiah 40:8; Psalm 119:11, 105; Matthew 5:18; 24:35; Romans 15:4*)
- We believe Scripture teaches that God is the Creator and Sustainer of human life; that God creates each person in His image; and that life is therefore sacred, from conception to natural death. We believe that God creates each person as male or female; that these two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the "image of God" in humankind; and that each person's biological gender is an intrinsic, immutable aspect of his or her nature and identity. (*Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7, 21-22; Psalm 139:13-18*)
- We believe Scripture teaches that God established marriage in the beginning as a lifelong, exclusive relationship between one man and one woman; that He has reserved sexual intimacy as an expression of love and commitment between married couples; and that any intimate expression of sexuality outside of God's established covenant of marriage is sin. (*Genesis 2:23-25; Exodus 20:14, 17, 22:19; Leviticus 18:1-20, 22-23; 20:11-21; Matthew 19:4-6, 9; Romans 1:18-31; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 15-20; 1 Timothy 1:8-11; Jude 7*)

We believe in the Gospel—the Good News of Salvation.

- That man, created by God, willfully sinned against God and is consequently lost and without hope apart from Jesus Christ. (*Isaiah 53:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:23*)
- That salvation—the forgiveness of sins—is only accomplished by grace through the blood of Jesus Christ. (*Matthew 26:28; Romans 5:9; Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 John 1:7*)
- That one receives this salvation by putting faith in Christ. That putting faith in Christ is demonstrated by repenting of sin, confessing Christ, and obeying the command of Jesus to be baptized by immersion. That the pattern to follow to receive Jesus as Savior is to believe in Jesus as God's Son and Savior of the world, to repent of personal sin, to confess Jesus as Lord, and to be immersed in baptism. (*Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Romans 5:1-2; 10:9; Ephesians 2:8-9; Acts 2:38-39, 3:19; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:27; Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:21*)
- We believe that those who receive Jesus also receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. He marks them as the possession of God, manifests the fruit of righteousness in their character, and endows them with spiritual gifts for ministry. (*1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Galatians 5:22-23*)
- That those who have received salvation through faith in Jesus Christ are sent into the world to proclaim the gospel and to love and serve the world just as Jesus Himself did. (*2 Corinthians 5:11-21; Ephesians 2:10; Matthew 28:18-20; John 20:21*)

- We believe that Heaven and Hell are real places and each of us will spend eternity in one place or the other. (*2 Corinthians 5:6-10; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 20:15*)

We believe in the Church of Jesus Christ, founded on the Day of Pentecost, consisting of all Christians everywhere, and organized into local assemblies, called churches. (*Matthew 16:13-18; Acts 2:14-47*)

- We believe the Bible teaches that every Christian should be an active member of a local church. (*Hebrews 10:24-25*)
- We believe that the Elders of the church are the overseers of its affairs and the shepherds of its members; that they are the final interpretive authority of Scripture's meaning and application for the church; and that they are responsible for the oversight, instruction, edification, discipline, and restoration of church members. (*1 Peter 5:1-4; Titus 1:9, 2:1-15; 1 Timothy 3:1-15; Hebrews 13:17; Matthew 18:15-17; Galatians 6:1; 1 Corinthians 5:11-13*)
- We believe that Christian Scripture instructs church members to:
 - Meet together regularly for fellowship, worship, teaching, and the Lord's Supper. (*Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:25; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26*)
 - Use our natural abilities and spiritual gifts to serve one another. (*Romans 12; 1 Peter 4:10; Galatians 5:13; 1 Corinthians 12:7*)
 - Love one another, bear with one another, accept one another, and forgive one another. (*John 13:34-35; John 15:17; 1 John 4:7; Romans 13:8; Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:14; Romans 15:7*)
 - Seek unity, agreement, and peace with one another. (*Romans 12:16, 18; 1 Thessalonians 5:13; Philippians 2:2; 2 Corinthians 13:11*)
 - Encourage and build up one another. (*1 Thessalonians 5:11*)
 - Bear one another's burdens and pray for one another. (*Galatians 6:2; James 5:16*)
 - Spur one another to love and good deeds. (*Hebrews 10:24*)
 - Submit to the authority of the elders of the church. (*Hebrews 13:17*)
 - Support the church financially. (*2 Corinthians 8:7; Malachi 3:10; 1 Timothy 5:17-18*)
 - Pursue personal holiness and obedience to God's Word. (*2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:7; 1 Peter 1:15*)
 - Strive together to fulfill the Great Commission. (*Matthew 28:18-20*)

Article II: Membership (continued)

2. Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and showing evidence of repentance by public confession of Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and upon being immersed into Christ may be a member of this congregation.

3. Members of other congregations may be received into this congregation provided they have affirmed the CCC Statement of Faith.

4. Assuming no provision to the contrary, or otherwise reasonable circumstances, the Elders shall have the sole discretion to remove membership status from any member who: 1) Fails to uphold the CCC Statement of Faith. 2) Adopts, as normal, behaviors or lifestyles that are in breach of the convictions of the CCC Statement of Faith.

Article III: Duties of Elders

Elders –

- The Elders shall discharge the duties of their office as set forth in the New Testament Scriptures of the Holy Bible. (Titus 2; 1 Timothy 3) Thus, they shall take complete charge of matters involving the worship and educational programs of the Church, the need for spiritual counsel or discipline toward any member of the congregation, and the carrying out of the Lord's Great Commission to take the Gospel into all the world. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and the Treasurer shall be the corporate officers of Community Christian Church in order to act regarding legal matters of the church, unless otherwise designated by the Board of Elders. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be Elders, and the Treasurer if not on the board shall be an ex-officio member of the board.
- A pastor or pastors may be appointed to the Eldership if approved by the Board of Elders.
- Any resignation of an Elder must be submitted in writing and approved by the board before it becomes official.

Articles IV: Election and Removal of Elders

- The nomination of Elders will be completed by the Elder board. The process and timetable for the selection(s) and election of nominees will be determined by the Elder board. The names of those selected will be announced to the congregation prior to a congregational vote. No person shall be declared elected as an Elder who has not received two-thirds of the ballots cast by current Community Christian Church members present at the congregational voting meeting.
- An Elder may be removed from the Board of Elders by a unanimous vote of the remaining Elders.

Article V: General Board

The general board shall consist of the Elders of the church.

A) Duties of the General Board

1. Hold at least 10 business meetings a year.
2. Call special meetings at the request of the chairman or by five or more board members.
3. Transact business

- B) A quorum of the board shall consist of a majority of eligible board members.
(Example, 10 Elders on the board, six are needed for a quorum.)

- C) A simple majority (Example, 6 Elders are present, need 4 votes for a majority.) shall decide any matter that may come before the meeting with the following exceptions:
1. Hiring or dismissing a senior minister.
 2. Any expenditure on or to the church property exceeding \$100,000.00.
 3. Change in the By-Laws, provided such amendment has been presented in writing at a meeting the month before the vote is taken.
- D) These matters (1, 2 and 3 exceptions immediately above) shall be decided only by a two-thirds vote of the Elder board.

Article VI: Deacon/Ministry Leaders -

Deacons/Ministry Leaders shall be appointed to the duties of their ministry by the Elders as set forth in the New Testament scriptures of the Holy Bible (Act 6:3). They shall cooperate with and assist the elders and staff in all matter pertaining to the material and spiritual welfare of the congregation. Deacons/Ministry Leaders shall not be a part of the Community Christian Church governing board.

Article VII: Selection of a Minister

The ministers of the church shall perform the duties which usually pertain to their offices, and as spiritual administrators for the church they shall be ex-officio members of the general board, and other organized groups, committees, and departments as required.

- A) The Elders shall constitute the Pulpit Committee when a senior minister is to be called.
- B) The hiring of ministerial staff other than the senior minister will be based upon procedures as established by the Elder board. Approval of these ministers will be by a simple majority of the entire board.
- C) The process and timetable for the termination of any minister will be determined by the Elder board.