

WALDEN COMMUNITY CHURCH
ON
LAKE CONROE, TEXAS

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CONSTITUTION AND POLICIES Revisions

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AMENDED: AUGUST 31, 2014

**WALDEN COMMUNITY CHURCH
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CONSTITUTION AND POLICIES

ARTICLE I – NAME AND HISTORY

The name of this church shall be Walden Community Church.

On May 5, 1983, nine (9) people met together to organize a church at Walden on Lake Conroe, Texas. Ten days later, Jack Treend, then a student at Dallas Theological Seminary was invited to speak; at which time those fifteen (15) in attendance voted unanimously to call Jack to become Pastor/Teacher of the Church. The Church was established to be a non-denominational, Bible teaching church dedicated to presenting everyone mature in Christ, in accordance with the teachings of Colossians 1:28 (ESV).

Walden Community Church was incorporated in the State of Texas on July 19, 1983. The first regular church service on August 7, 1983 met in the Walden Conference Center, which was generously provided by the Walden Community. Forty (40) people attended the first service.

The developers of Walden on Lake Conroe, S. Conrad Weild, Jr. and Jerry Deutser, generously donated land for the building of a House of Worship. The future church site was located on Walden Road. The deed to the property was transferred and recorded in December of 1983.

Ground breaking for the new church building was August 3, 1986. The first regular church service in the new building was February 22, 1987. The dedication service for Walden Community Church on Lake Conroe was March 22, 1987.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

1. To preach and teach the Word of God for the purpose of bringing the lost to faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
2. To worship as a church family, and bring Glory to God our Father.
3. To encourage individual Christians to grow in Grace and knowledge of Jesus in doctrine and experience.
4. To minister to the spiritual and physical needs of the people in Walden and the surrounding community.
5. To promote spiritual growth through the missionary out-reach of Walden Community Church.

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ARTICLE III – DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

“We believe in one God eternally existing in three persons:

God the Father

God the Son

God the Holy Spirit

(Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14)

“We believe that the scriptures of the Old and New Testament as being verbally inspired and preserved by God and are without error and infallible in the original writings.”

(II Timothy 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:20, 21)

“We believe that man was originally created in the image and after the likeness of God.” Adam’s sin of disobedience brought death to himself and all mankind. Therefore, we believe that mankind has inherited a sinful nature and is separated from the Holy God and man is totally unable to redeem himself.

(Genesis 1:26, 27; Romans 5:12, 3:23)

“We believe that Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.”

(Luke 1:35; John 20:31)

“We believe that the Lord Jesus instituted the ordinance of water baptism and the Lord’s Supper, to be observed by all believers until His return.”

(Matthew 28:19; I Corinthians 11:23 – 26)

“We believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins as our substitutionary sacrifice and all true believers once saved are kept secure in Jesus Christ eternally”

(John 1:14 and 5:24; II Corinthians 12:13; Romans 8:1)

“We believe that salvation is a gift from God and is received by man only through personal faith in Jesus Christ and that man is justified by God’s grace through faith apart from works.”

(Acts 13:38, 39; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8, 9)

“We believe that the present ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Jesus Christ.” He baptizes every believer into the body of Christ at the moment of salvation and permanently indwells him. The Holy Spirit also guides, instructs, empowers, fills, and convicts the believer.

(I Corinthians 12:13; John 16:7 thru 14, 14:16 thru 20; Ephesians 5:18)

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ARTICLE III – DOCTRINAL STATEMENT (continued)

“We believe that the universal Church is the body of Christ.” As members of the universal and local Church we have a responsibility to walk together in Christian love. Also we have a responsibility to exercise care and watchfulness over one another and to pray with one another, sharing our burdens, sorrows and joys. (Acts 2:42 – 47; Ephesians 4:11 – 13)

“We believe in the resurrection of the saved and the lost, the saved destined to a literal Heaven and the lost to a literal Hell.” (Revelation 20:10 – 15; II Thessalonians 1:7 – 9; Luke 16:19 – 26)

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

1. **MEMBERSHIP:** A person may qualify for membership who declares his belief in Jesus Christ as their personal savior and who is in agreement with the doctrinal statement of this Church.
2. **ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP:** Persons desiring to retain membership in other churches may be admitted as an associate member in the same manner prescribed for regular membership.
3. **MEMBERSHIP ROLL:** An active Membership Roll will be kept by the Walden Community Church Secretary. An annual review of the Membership Roll will be made by the Elders at least two weeks before the Annual Congregational Meeting.

ARTICLE V – CHURCH GOVERNMENT

SECTION I - GENERAL

Item 1.

The daily administrative government of this church shall be vested in its elected and selected officers. (See Section II, Item 8)

The congregational authority is thus represented by and through this selected group; but the congregation shall have the final say in all major decisions, by a majority vote of those present in the duly called Congregational Meeting. (See Item 4. below for quorum requirements for a General Congregational Meeting.) Examples of major decisions are as follows:

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ARTICLE V – CHURCH GOVERNMENT - SECTION I – GENERAL (Continued)

- A. Any action or initiative involving the employment status of the Pastor requires a seventy five percent (75%) majority vote of the qualified voters (including the proxies) present at the Congregational Meeting.
- B. Electing the General Board requires a simple majority vote of the qualified voters (including the proxies) present at the Congregational Meeting.
- C. Approving the Annual Budget requires a simple majority vote of the qualified voters (including the proxies) present at the Congregational Meeting.
- D. Amending the Constitution requires a two-thirds vote of the qualified voters (including the proxies) present at the Congregational Meeting.

Item 2.

The General Board will function as the executive committee representing the congregation and shall be composed of the following: Three (3) to Five (5) Elders, Five (5) to Nine (9) Deacons, and One (1) or Two (2) Trustee, One (1) Secretary, and One (1) Treasurer. The Pastor shall be a voting member of the General Board, except on issues where he is individually involved. The Chairman of the General Board shall be an Elder and shall be selected by the General Board Members.

The number of Elders, Deacons and Trustees may fluctuate according to the need, at the discretion of the General Board and approved by the congregation.

Item 3.

The General Board shall meet at least monthly with notice posted in the Sunday Church Bulletin and also by E-Mail if practical. Additional General Board Meetings may be scheduled as required. All congregational members are invited to attend. A closed executive session may follow each meeting which will be closed to everyone except the General Board Members.

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ARTICLE V – CHURCH GOVERNMENT - SECTION I – GENERAL (Continued)

Item 4.

The Congregation will have an annual Business Meeting on a Sunday in January or February, to be determined by the General Board and formally announced to the Congregation at least 14 days in advance of the meeting. A Special Congregational Business Meeting may be called any time by decision of the General Board.

A quorum for the transaction of business in all Congregational Meetings shall consist of one-third of the voting members of the Church Membership as determined by the annual review of the Church Membership Role by the Elders. Members known to be “shut-ins” shall be provided with written notification by mail of Congregational Meetings. They shall also be provided with written proxies to cast their vote as though physically present in the Congregational Meeting. Other qualified voting members may request a written proxy to cast their vote if their presence at the congregational Meeting is not possible.

Only full members or accredited associate members of the church who are eighteen (18) years of age or older will be permitted to vote. All business meetings shall be conducted according to Robert’s Rules of Order.

Item 5.

Nominees to fill vacant board positions must be approved by the congregation. Any board member deemed to be inactive may be removed upon approval by the General Board.

SECTION II - OFFICERS

Item 1. – Elders

The Elders are chosen representatives of the congregation to govern, discipline and oversee the spiritual needs of the Church. The Elders will serve for a minimum of three (3) years and be subject to re-election by the congregation for an additional three (3) years. After six (6) years of continuous service the Elder must vacate the office for at least one (1) year. The qualifications for the office of Elder are found in I Timothy 3, and Titus 1.

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ARTICLE V – CHURCH GOVERNMENT - SECTION II – OFFICERS (continued)

Item 2. – Pastor / Teacher

The Pastor / Teacher will function as both senior shepherd and teacher of the congregation. He will have general oversight of the spiritual life of the church, with the Elders. The Pastor will preach / teach the word of God in regular worship services and administer the ordinances of the Church.

Item 3. – Deacons

The Deacons are the chosen representatives of the congregation to oversee the care of the physical properties of the church. The Deacons shall operate under the general supervision of the Elders. One office is just as important as the other. They will merely operate in different spheres which is necessary for successful operation. The Deacons will serve for three (3) years. After three (3) years, a Deacon may be re-elected by the congregation for an additional three (3) years. After six (6) years of continuous service, the Deacon must vacate the office for at least one (1) year. The qualifications for the office of Deacon are found in I Timothy 3:8 thru 13.

Item 4. – Trustee(s)

The Trustee(s) are chosen representatives of the congregation and serve on the General Board. The Trustee(s) shall function in a fiduciary capacity regarding the real property of the church and the title to those properties. The trustee(s) will serve for three (3) years. After three (3) years of continuous service the Trustee must vacate the office for at least one (1) year. The qualification for the office of Trustee is to be a member in good standing.

Item 5. – Christian Education Coordinator

The Christian Education Coordinator shall be appointed by the Elders and shall be responsible to them in function. All Sunday School Teachers must be approved by the Elders.

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ARTICLE V – CHURCH GOVERNMENT - SECTION II – OFFICERS (continued)

Item 6. – Secretary and Treasurer

The secretary and treasurer shall be selected by the General Board and are voting members.

The duties of the Church Board Secretary will be:

Maintain records of and for the church, keep records and minutes of all General Board and Business Meetings of the church, and maintain book of minutes of meetings.

The duties of the Church Board Treasurer will be:

Receive all offerings, deposit and distribute all church funds as authorized by the Annual Church Budget and the General Board. Maintain a record of all financial statements, keep confidential the giving pattern of all persons making contributions of gifts to the Church, and maintain treasurer records for an annual audit.

Item 7. – Nominating Committee

A Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Board to present nominations to the Board for all congregational elected positions.

Item 8. – Form of Government and Accountability

The form of government at Walden Community Church shall be by Elder leadership with congregational approval.

The Elders, in cooperation with the General Board, will serve the congregation in the decision making process. The Pastor, Elders and General Board are accountable to the congregation for effective administration of all church business, both spiritual and secular.

The Pastor is first accountable to Jesus Christ, with secondary accountability to the Elders, to serve as the primary shepherd and overseer of Walden Community Church. As such, the Pastor shall be a voting member of the General and Elder Board.

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ARTICLE V – CHURCH GOVERNMENT

SECTION III – OUTREACH

Item 1. – Missionary Support

The church will aid financially in the support of missionaries and missionary projects which are recommended by the Ministry Committee and approved by the General Board.

Item 2. – Extended Arm of the Church

The organizations of Women’s Christian Fellowship and Men’s Christian Fellowship shall function as an extended arm of this Church, with emphasis placed on “Christian Fellowship”, Bible Study and Prayer. Their objective shall be to minister to the spiritual needs of the community.

ARTICLE VI – ORDINANCES

*We believe that Water Baptism and the Lord’s Supper are the only sacraments and ordinances of the church and that they are scriptural means of testimony for the church in this age.

(Matthew 3:14 thru 17, 28:19, 26:26 thru 28)

*We believe that the Lord’s Supper and Water Baptism are symbols given to Christians by which they can testify of their relationship to and fellowship with Jesus Christ.

*We believe that Water Baptism, while having no salvation value, is nevertheless a public testimony concerning the salvation already received by the believer. Baptism by immersion was the mode used in bible times and is the mode which best pictures the identification of the believer with Christ in his death, burial and resurrection.

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ARTICLE VII – POLICIES

1. Utilization of the Church Buildings, Property and Equipment is for the sole purpose of worship, fellowship and community outreach. Any removal of Church property or equipment except for related church function or repairs must be approved by the General Board.
2. Request of use of the Church facilities and / or services by a member or non-member for a special service of any type must be presented to the General Board for consideration (exempting those covered under current policy).
3. Requests from those wishing to speak from the pulpit for the purpose of soliciting contributions for a particular cause or purpose must be approved by the General Board.
4. Any soliciting, campaigning, fund raising, distribution of any type of material, or any other such activity is prohibited within the church or on the church property except for Church related activities that are approved by the General Board.
5. All contributions to the church from an identifiable source (either by check or designated envelope) will be recorded in a confidential log to be maintained by the Treasurer (or treasurer designated individual) for the purpose of providing the giver necessary IRS contribution receipts.
6. Two (2) authorized signatures are required on checks written against the general fund for non-recurring expenditures that have not been previously budget approved. All other checks require one (1) signature.
7. It is the Pastor's responsibility to see that the pulpit is filled in his absence.
8. The Men's and Women's Fellowship Groups are an extension of the Church and shall function under the direction of the General Board. The officers of these two groups shall be members of the Church.
9. Purchases for the Church: Only people approved by the Treasurer will have the authority to charge against the Church's open accounts.
10. The treasurer has the authority to approve the purchase of flowers (i.e. funeral and hospital).

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ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

1. The Walden Community Church Constitution is a living document and periodic amendments are therefore to be expected.
2. Proposed amendments must be approved by the General Board with copies of the amendments mailed to each Church Member at least two weeks prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting or Special Congregational Meeting.
3. The Constitution may be amended by two-thirds of the voting members at a duly called Business Meeting. This meeting must be announced from the pulpit for two consecutive weeks prior to the meeting.
4. The proposed amendments must also be posted on the Church Bulletin Board at least two weeks prior to the meeting.