

BY-LAWS OF
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
JACKSONVILLE, ILLINOIS
(Adopted by Congregational Vote: November 20, 2016)

Preamble

We, the members of First Christian Church (also referred to as FCC), in order to comply with the legal guidelines of the State of Illinois, promote the work of the Kingdom of God, and in the spirit of His Divine name, do hereby adopt these BY-LAWS as our rules of operation and governance.

Article I: Name

This church is incorporated under the Illinois Religious Corporation Act as “First Christian Church”.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of FCC is “To help people become mature followers of Jesus Christ.”

Article III: Membership

- The members of FCC shall be those persons who meet the membership criteria set forth in the New Testament:
 - Have worshiped regularly at FCC and supported FCC’s vision by attendance, service, and financial support; and
 - Have professed an experience of salvation by confessing faith in Jesus Christ and strive to live in harmony with the doctrine and practice of the Bible, the inerrant, inspired Word of God; and
 - Been baptized (by immersion) into Christ (Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:27; Romans 6:3-5).

Article IV: Government

Section 1. FCC Autonomy

- FCC is and will remain a non-denominational and self-governing entity, subject to no other ecclesiastical or political body.

Section 2. Elders

- Elders shall be selected and appointed in conformity with the New Testament principles found in I Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9; I Pet. 5:2-4. They shall serve and comprise part of the Leadership Team.
- Selection of Elders:
 - To qualify as an Elder, a candidate must be an active member of FCC, must be deemed by the Leadership Team to closely fulfill the Biblical model of discipline and must display the spiritual gift of leadership so as to be capable of discerning the will of God for the direction and vision of FCC.
 - Before being considered for appointment, each candidate shall be screened by the Leadership Team, shall be informed of the responsibilities of an Elder at FCC and shall state his desire for the work of an Elder. After further screening and prayer, the Elder candidate then may be appointed at the discretion of the Leadership Team.
- The Elders shall be responsible for all decisions made with regards to all legal dealings or transactions regarding FCC. Such decisions shall be made with consideration of all that is written in these bylaws.

Section 3. Leadership Team

- The Leadership Team of FCC will consist of the Elders and the following FCC staff:
 - The Senior Minister of FCC (the spiritual leader of FCC and it's members);
 - The Director of Administration (responsible for FCC administration, facility, and grounds, and for preparing and submitting the annual income and expense budget to the Elders and to the members of FCC);

- The Leadership Team shall have oversight of the operations and direction of FCC, including hiring, terminating, and disciplining staff members.
- The Leadership Team may delegate these responsibilities, from time to time, in whole or in part, to one or more staff members, or to a committee of members appointed by the Leadership Team for that purpose.
- The Leadership Team shall draft and/or adopt policies and procedures to enable FCC to carry out its stated purpose and vision.

Section 4. Officers

- The officers of FCC shall consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. Officers, with the exception of the Treasurer, shall be selected by the Leadership Team from the Elders, on an annual basis, to serve one (1) year terms.
- The Leadership Team shall appoint the Treasurer from among the members of the Finance Ministry Team (FMT). FMT members are active members that are recommended by the Treasurer and voted on by the current FMT, that display the spiritual gift of stewardship so as to be capable of discerning the will of God for the direction and vision of FCC, and who possess the skills and abilities to carry out their position.
- In addition to any other duties assigned to them, the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary of the Leadership Team shall have the powers and duties of Trustees under the Illinois Religious Corporation Act, including, when directed, the power to enter into lawful contracts in the name of and in behalf of FCC and mortgage, encumber, sell, and convey any real or personal property of FCC.

Section 5. Church Discipline

- FCC, through the discretion of the Leadership Team, reserves the right to practice disciplinary procedures as described in the New Testament. In all matters herein where the standard to be applied is the New Testament, the final interpretation of what the New Testament says on all issues shall be determined by the Elders.

Section 6. Business Minutes

- The records and minutes of meetings of the members shall be open for inspection by any FCC member. Minutes of the meetings of the Leadership Team shall be open for inspection by any FCC member, except those minutes reflecting or recording any personnel issues, or spiritual, disciplinary, or other private matters relating to any person, which will be determined by the Leadership Team.

Section 7. Financial Records

- The Treasurer and the Director of Administration shall have care and custody of the funds and financial records of FCC, and shall at all reasonable times exhibit the financial records to any FCC member. However, the Director of Administration shall also keep a confidential record of all individual giving to FCC, which shall not be available for inspection by anyone other than the Senior Minister, Chairman of the Elders and state and federal tax authorities.

Article V: Meetings

Section 1. Active Members

- There shall be an annual business meeting of the FCC active members during the last quarter of each calendar year, or at such other time(s) as the Leadership Team may specify, for the purpose of conducting FCC business.
- Special meetings of the active members may be called by the Leadership Team or a majority of active members. An active member is defined as someone listed on the church membership roll and demonstrates support of the church through regular attendance (minimum of 50% in a calendar year) and faithful giving. Matthew 6:21
- At least seven days' notice of any members' business meeting shall be given through the FCC newsletter, website, church app or by posting of notices on the FCC property and/or in regular church services stating time, place and purpose.
- Voting FCC members, that are active and 18 years and older, may vote at a business meeting. A **signed** absentee ballot is valid if returned to the Director of Administration before the meeting. Only one absentee ballot will be given to each voting member of FCC.

Section 2. Majority vote

- Unless these By-laws state otherwise, a simple majority of the members present (or by absentee ballot) may transact business at any properly called meeting.

Section 3. Quorum

- No minimum number or percentage of members is required for quorum purposes at a properly called member's business meeting.

Article VI: Ministry Teams and Workgroups

- The Leadership Team shall appoint Ministry Teams and Working groups to accomplish some of its work. These teams shall have clear deadlines and demarcations of functions.
- The Chairman of the Elders shall be an ex-officio member of every Ministry Team and Working group. Any decision(s) or action recommended by any Ministry Team or Working Group that affects, modifies, or circumvents these By-laws must be approved by the Leadership Team before becoming effective.

Article VII: Marriage

- Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between one man, one woman, and Himself, First Christian Church will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman as each person was designated by a medical doctor at the person's birth and evidenced by the person's original birth certificate.
- Further, the ministers and staff of First Christian Church shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman as each person was designated by a medical doctor at the person's birth and evidenced by the person's original birth certificate.
- Finally, the facilities and property of First Christian Church shall only host marriage related events between one man and one woman as each person was designated by a medical doctor at the person's birth and evidenced by the person's original birth certificate.

Article VIII: Capital Expenditures

- All major building projects or capital expenditures which exceeds \$100,000 requires separate approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the Elders and two-thirds 2/3 of the active and voting members of FCC present at the meeting called for the purpose of considering such a transaction, purchase or sale.

Article IX: IRS Provisions and Disposition of Assets Upon Dissolution

- No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation 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 these By-Laws.
- No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.
- Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding provision of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.
- Upon the dissolution of the corporation, 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 as selected by the Elders. In lieu of the absence of Elders, selection will be made by 2/3 of active and voting members.

Article X: Liability and Indemnification

Section 1. Liability

- The Elders, Leadership Team and Officers of FCC shall not, by reason of their service or activities, be personally liable for any of FCC's debts, obligations, or liabilities.

Section 2. Indemnification

- FCC shall indemnify Elders, Leadership Team and Officers of FCC against expenses incurred in connection with the defense of any action, suit, or proceeding in which he is made a party by reason of being, or having been, such Elder or officer, to the maximum extent permitted by law. Such indemnification shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which such Elder or officer may be entitled under these Bylaws, any agreement, action of the Elders, or otherwise.

Article XI: Amendments

- These Bylaws may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of active and voting members of FCC present at a meeting specifically called for that purpose.