



*Christ Community Church
of
Blackstone, Incorporated*

By-Laws

Christ Community Church of Blackstone, Inc.

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Article I – Name

The name of this church shall be **Christ Community Church of Blackstone, Inc.**, herein referred to as **Christ Community Church**.

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of this Church shall be to advance the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. Using the Holy Bible as the sole standard of faith and doctrine, it shall seek to attain this end through the public worship of God, the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, consistent Christian living by its members, personal evangelism, missionary endeavor, and Christian education.

Article III – Corporation

Recognizing Jesus Christ as the only head of the Church, this congregation shall seek to ascertain and to obey the will of our Lord in all matters of faith and of practice.

The government of this Church is vested in the body of members who compose it. Thus the final authority for decision shall be the members to whom the boards, committees, and staff are responsible.

Election of officers shall serve in the capacity required by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Article IV – Articles of Faith

This Church receives the Bible as an all-sufficient basis of doctrine and practice. A summary of our doctrinal position is described under **Statement of Faith**. A summary of the principles we suggest for Christian practice among our members is described under **Church Convenent**.

Section A - Statement of Faith

- The Bible*** We believe that all the books of the Old and New Testaments, as originally written, were inspired by God and hence, free from error. The Bible, God's written word, serves as our only true guide to faith and practice.
(Timothy 3:15-17, II Peter 1:20-21)
- God*** We believe there is one living and true God, Creator and Preserver of all things. God has revealed Himself through both His creation and redemptive actions, which fulfilled in Jesus Christ, to be perfect in love and in righteousness.
(Deuteronomy 6:4, Genesis 1, Col. 1:16)
- Trinity*** We believe God exists eternally in three equal persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19, II Corinthians 13:14, John 14:16-17)
- Mankind*** We believe God created man and woman in His own image, as the crown of His creation that they might have fellowship with Him.
Tempted by Satan they rebelled against God and fell into a state of sin and spiritual death. Through this fall, mankind has become separated from God and subject to His wrath.
Apart from grace, mankind cannot be saved. (Genesis 1:26-28, Genesis 2, Genesis 3:1-19, Romans 3:9-26)
- Salvation*** We believe God's grace has been manifested to us through His Son, Jesus Christ to bring about our salvation and restore our relationship to God.
Jesus, the second person of the Trinity, became a man, being born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life and offered Himself freely to death on the cross. His death was a substitutionary death whereby He bore the penalty rightly due our sin.
On the third day, He rose from the grave. He was exalted and seated at the right hand of the Father. It is only through His death and His life that we can be saved from wrath.
(Romans 3:21-26, 5:1-20, 8:1; Matthew 1:20-25; Luke 1:30-31; Hebrews 7:26; I Peter 2:22; 1 Corinthians 15:3; Acts 1:9, 11, 2:23; Philippians 2:11)
- Holy Spirit*** We believe the Holy Spirit, through the proclamation of the Gospel, convicts us of sin, convicting us to repent of our sin and to confess Jesus Christ as Lord.
He regenerates our fallen nature, causing us to be "*born again*" and through a lifelong process transforms us into the likeness of Jesus Christ.
The Holy Spirit thus enables us to turn from sin and to live a life that produces the "*fruit of the Spirit*" whereby all might see our good works and give glory to God.
The Holy Spirit within us gives us the power to be Christ's witness in both word and deed.
The same Holy Spirit also gives gifts to the Church and to those believers who seek His gifts.(John 3:3-8, 14:15-26, 16:5-15; Acts 1:8, 2:1-4, 2:17-18; Romans 8:1-11, 12:1-2; Galatians 5:16-25, I Corinthians 12-14; Ephesians 4:7-16)

Section A – Statement of Faith - Continued

The Church

We believe those who turn to Jesus Christ in repentance and faith make up His Church.
(Ephesians 4:5-6; Romans 12:4-5; Galatians 3:26-28)

Ordinances

We believe that Jesus Christ commanded that the Church practice two ordinances or sacraments. These are Baptism and Communion.
Of themselves these ordinances have no power to save.
We observe these in obedience to our Lord and they serve as a powerful testimony and reminder of what Jesus Christ has done and will do on our behalf.
(Matthew 26:26-29, 28:19; Romans 6:4; I Corinthians 11:23-26)

The End of the Age

We believe Jesus Christ will return one day, though “no one knows about that day or hour.” All the dead shall be raised and all mankind will be brought before God to be judged.
Those who have refused God’s grace and have persisted in sin and unbelief shall be separated from His presence and thus be given up eternally unto His wrath.
Those who have availed themselves of His grace, having placed their faith in Jesus Christ, shall live in the presence of God forever.
Then shall God’s redemptive purposes be fulfilled and all of creation shall proclaim His glory.
(Matthew 24:3-36, 25:31-46; Acts 1:11; I Thessalonians 5:1-11; II Thessalonians 1:6-10; Revelations 20:11-14, 21:1-6, 22:1-21)

Section B – Church Covenant

We, the members of Christ Community Church, subscribing to the above Statement of Faith covenant:

To gather together faithfully as a Christian community to worship the risen Lord Jesus Christ.

To strive together, using every means at our disposal, to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our own community and in the wider world and thereby fulfill Christ’s commission to make disciples, to work for justice in both word and deed in our community and in our world.

To encourage one another in our walk of faith rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep.

To encourage and facilitate the discovery and development of the God-given gifts and talents in our brothers and sisters, whatever these gifts and talents in our brothers and sisters might be.

Section B – Church Covenant - Continued

To be a community where the stranger is always welcome; where the one searching for truth can come and hear truth spoken and see truth lived; where the one broken in spirit can come and find healing of spirit, striving with all the strength the Holy Spirit gives, to be all things to all men that we might win all to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, to be a community that waits, enduring all things patiently and saying with the apostle John, “Even so Lord Jesus come.”

Article V – Affiliation

This Church shall at all times hereafter retain the right to either associate or disassociate itself with and from any denomination or fellowship.

This Church shall retain its autonomy, as the historical situation shall dictate, in order to give its allegiance first of all to God and His Word.

At no time shall the properties or assets of this Church become the properties or assets of another organization through assumption. Any affiliation shall be based upon agreement with our Articles of Faith.

Article VI – Membership

Section A – Purpose

It is lawful and agreeable to the Word of God that members of Christ’s body on earth should, as local circumstances require, be divided into particular churches. A particular church consists of a number of professing Christians with their offspring voluntarily associated together for divine worship and godly living, and submitting to a certain form of government.

Section B – Admission of Members

Members of Christ Community Church will be born again believers (John 3:3) and are received into the Church through confession of faith. Candidates will be examined by the Board of Deacons and affirmed by a vote of the membership. They must give evidence of the following:

1. That they believe in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.
2. That they intend, by the Holy Spirit's help, to grow in Christian experience through prayer, study of Scripture, church attendance, and other means of God's grace, and to walk circumspectly before the world.
3. That they are willing to support the Church financially as the Lord instructs.
4. That they are willing to conform to the governing rules of the Church .
5. That they are able to subscribe to the Articles of Faith
6. That they have made a public profession of their faith through believer's baptism.

Note: The requirement of believer's baptism can be waived as considered appropriate by decision of the Board of Deacons

Section C – Voting Rights

Active Members of age (18) eighteen or older have the right to participate in and vote in all congregational meetings.

Section D – Categories of Membership

Active Member

An Active Member is one who pledges themselves to attend the regular worship services of the Church and the celebration of the Lord's Supper; to live a Christian life; to share in the life and work of the Church; to contribute to its support and missionaries; and to seek diligently the spiritual welfare of the membership and the community.

Inactive Member

An Inactive Member is a member who has displayed little or no activity in the Church functions, especially worship services, which are an integral part of church membership. (Ref. Section B #2) The amount of a member's activity shall be determined over a period of not less than three consecutive months.

An Inactive Member shall have a non-voting membership status.

Members shall be placed in this category by a unanimous vote of the Board of Deacons.

Any member listed as an Inactive Member for a period exceeding six months may be removed from membership by a unanimous vote of the Board of Deacons.

An Inactive Member may be reinstated to an Active Member status after examination by the Board of Deacons and affirmation by the membership.

Section D – Categories of Membership Continued

Honorary Member An Honorary Member is a member in good standing who is presently inactive due to reasons deemed acceptable by the Board of Deacons. These reasons would include, but are not limited to; moving out of the area, and disability restrictions resulting in inactivity for an extended period of time. The extended period of time shall be determined by the Board of Deacons once evaluation of the member's individual circumstances has been reviewed.

An Honorary Member shall have a non-voting membership status due to inactivity and lack of participation in current church activity.

A member shall be placed in this category by a unanimous vote of the Board of Deacons.

Section E – Removal from Membership

Any member of this Church may upon request, receive a letter of transfer and /or a recommendation to another church. A person's right of membership shall terminate upon acceptance to another church.

Any member of this Church shall be considered to have voluntarily terminated membership upon his/her joining another religious association or organization which does not subscribe to the Articles of Faith of this Church.

Should a member become an offense to the Church and its good name by reason of immoral or unchristian conduct, any member of the Church may request, in writing to the Diaconate, discipline of the offending member. After due notice and hearing in accordance with Matthew 18:15-17, determination to censure, suspend, or terminate the offending member shall be the responsibility of the Diaconate.

Section F – Restoration

In every instance of repentance, restitution (where necessary) and correction of behavior, the member shall be restored to fellowship. Said person shall not, however, be restored to any position of leadership without the full consent of the Board of Deacons.

Article VII – Administration

Section A – Meetings

Spiritual

The Church shall meet regularly on each Lord's Day for public worship, preaching the Gospel and Bible Study. Recognizing that spiritual growth takes more than meeting only on Sunday mornings; the Church is encouraged to provide other opportunities during the week, whether in homes or in the main church meeting house for members to meet for Bible study, prayer, worship and fellowship.

Business

The annual business meeting shall be held on the last Friday of October to elect officers and to transact other business that may legally come before it. Reports of the officers, boards, standing committees and auxiliary organizations shall be made in writing; a copy shall be filed with the Clerk on or before October 1st. Notice of the Annual Business Meeting shall be posted in the church and given to each member during a minimum of two (2) Sunday services before said meeting.

Special Meetings

Special meetings shall be called by the Clerk upon direction of the Pastor, the Board of Deacons and Church Council, or upon written request by ten (10) adult members. Notice of special meetings shall be directed to Church members by all means available. No less than 48 hours may be given for a special meeting.

Section B – Fiscal Year

The fiscal year shall commence January 1st and conclude December 31st.

Section C - Quorum

A quorum shall consist of at least thirty-three percent (33%) of the active membership of the Church.

Article VIII – The Pastor

Section A – Selection

The selection of a pastor rests with the active members who shall upon recommendation of the Ministerial Committee (Pastoral Selection Committee) make a choice requiring two-thirds affirmative vote of active members present at a meeting called for that purpose.

Section B – Separation

The Pastor shall hold office for an indefinite term. The Pastor may voluntarily dissolve the relationship upon sixty days written notice submitted to the Clerk of the Church. Should the Clerk request to dissolve the relationship by two-thirds vote of the active members present at a special meeting called for that purpose, resignation shall be presented by the Pastor within sixty days to take effect within ninety days. Separation either voluntary or requested may have shorter notice when mutually agreed upon by both parties.

Section C – Duties

The Pastor shall be responsible for the spiritual welfare of the Church in cooperation with the Diaconate i.e. visiting the sick, home and hospital visitations, participation in all church activities; the enlistment of followers of Christ; the preaching of the Gospel and administration of the sacraments and ordinances; the conduct of all services of the public worship; administration and activities of the Church in cooperation with the various boards and committees.

The Pastor shall be an adviser to all boards and committees and at his/her discretion shall serve as a member ex officio, with the exception of the Pastoral Search or Pastor Review Committees, which would be appointed by a majority vote of Council.

Section D – Involuntary Separation

The Church may dismiss the Pastor on the following grounds:

- (a) teaching outside of scriptural guidelines
- (b) refusal to perform duties as noted in Article VIII, Section C
- (c) clear violation of scriptural conduct which obviously hinders the church
- (d) when he/she disagrees with the mission and vision of the church

Section D – Involuntary Separation (continued)

- In such case, the Deacons shall select a Committee of three members in good standing with the church who shall counsel the pastor in accordance with scripture.
- Should the matter not be resolved, the Committee shall report the same to the Deacons.
- The Deacons will then vote for dismissal with a unanimous vote of all active Deacons present and voting.
- The Deacons will then notify all voting members of their decision by letter
- A special meeting will be held after notification and the church members will vote by secret ballot

Section E – Severance/Separation Package

Upon resignation or termination, there is no severance package available.

Article IX – Officers

Section A – Officers

The officers shall consist of the President, Treasurer, Clerk and Collector.

Section B – Election of Officers

All officers shall be elected by a congregational vote at the Annual Meeting, and shall hold office for a term of one year, or until their successor is chosen and appointed by the Church Council.

No position shall be held indefinitely.

Section C – Binding Agreements

Officers of the Church shall be authorized to enter contracts, binding agreements, and other such legal or moral commitments with the approval of the Church Council.

Section D – President

The President is the chief executive officer of the organization subject to the authority of the Pastor and the Church Council. The President shall moderate all business and administrative meetings. The President shall maintain a close working relationship with the Pastor. The President shall, at his/her discretion, be an ex-officio member of all committees with the exception of the Nominating Committee.

Section E – Clerk

The Clerk shall maintain an accurate and current record of the proceedings and activities of the Church. Such records shall include the following: minutes of all business meetings, membership records to include addresses, mode of reception and member classification, birth, deaths, baptisms, dedications, and marriages. The Clerk shall issue letters of membership transfers, preserve on file all communications and all official reports, notify all persons elected to all officers and committees, provide legal notices of all meetings, when such notices are necessary, prepare the annual report to include all important occurrences during the preceding year, and act as secretary for the Church. The Clerk may appoint an historian for the purpose of maintaining historical records.

Section F – Treasurer

The Treasurer shall have custody of operating funds for the Church, submit bills to the Chairman of the Stewardship Committee for approval; maintain accurate records of all receipts and disbursements; disburse moneys received for current expenses as directed by the Stewardship Committee or as voted by the Church; shall prepare an annual report of all receipts and expenditures during the preceding year to include current balances of all accounts; shall be a voting member of the Stewardship Committee.

(Note: At this time, the Stewardship Committee is not active. The Treasurer gives his/her report and makes requests at the monthly All-Church Meeting to be voted upon.)

Section G – Collector

The Collector shall take charge of the offerings and special collections for the General Fund Account (this excludes the Deacons' fund.) Moneys designated for benevolence or repair shall be deposited in appropriate accounts and deposit receipts shall be maintained. All other moneys shall be deposited in the current Operating Account with a detailed receipt provided to the Treasurer. The Collector shall prepare an annual report of all offerings and special collections.

Article X – Committees

Section A – Standing Committees

The standing committees shall consist of a Church Council which shall be the governing body of the Church and a Diaconate, Christian Education Committee, Fellowship Committee, Outreach/Missions Committee, Property Committee, Stewardship Committee and Sanctuary Committee.

(Note: Due to small church membership, the Fellowship, Stewardship and Sanctuary Committees are not active.)

Section B – Church Council

Composition:

Membership of the Church Council shall consist of the Church President, Clerk, Treasurer, Collector, Pastor and the chairman of each standing committee to include: Diaconate, Christian Education, Fellowship, Outreach/Missions, Property, Stewardship and Sanctuary. The Pastor, officers and each elected chairperson of the standing committees must be an active voting member of the Church, and are considered the voting members of Council.

Section B – Church Council Continued

Responsibilities

The Church Council is responsible to the membership for administration of worship, properties, activities, and finances. This shall be accomplished through the use of standing and temporary committees which have assigned areas of responsibility as herein described.

The Church Council shall meet a minimum of six (6) times per year at the discretion of the Church Council.

Additional meetings may be held as needed providing no less than 24 hours notice has been given to all participants.

A minimum of 33% voting attendance is required for a quorum.

Section C – Diaconate

Composition

The Diaconate shall consist of four to eight (4-8) members. The Church should strive to keep a balance of male and female diaconate members so as to better understand and minister to the needs of all Church members.

Responsibilities

- The Diaconate shall meet a minimum of six (6) times each fiscal year and is responsible to the Church Council.
- It shall be the duty of the Diaconate to cooperate with the Pastor in meeting the spiritual needs of the Church and community.
They shall prepare and assist the Pastor in the administration of the sacraments/ordinances.
They shall assist the Pastor in the examination of applicants for membership in the Church.
They shall review the membership rolls annually and make appropriate updates and/or revisions as necessary.
They shall determine disciplinary actions to be taken should a member become an offense to the Church.
They shall assist the Pastor in visiting the sick, the sorrowing, the aged and the shut-ins.
- The Diaconate shall select a chairperson (must be an active voting member of the Church) who shall attend the Church Council meeting as a voting member.
- The Diaconate shall oversee the collection, maintain and administer the Deacons' Fund and the Memorial Fund.

Section C – Diaconate Continued

Terms of Appointment

Members of the Diaconate shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a term of four (4) years. No member of the Diaconate shall serve more than eight (8) consecutive years. Should a member of the Diaconate be unable to complete the full four (4) year term, the President shall recommend, for approval by the Pastor and the Board of Deacons, a replacement who shall fill the position until the first Annual Meeting at which time the Nominating Committee shall recommend a replacement for the remainder of the time. (It should be attempted to have no more than two (2) member terms expire in the same year.)

Section D – Christian Education Committee

Composition

The Christian Education Committee shall consist of a minimum of nominated and duly elected Chairperson (must be an active voting member of the Church) and the Sunday School Superintendent. The Pastor, at his/her discretion, shall serve as a member ex-officio and shall preside at his/her discretion. Other elected members may be nominated and elected as deemed necessary at the discretion of the Pastor and the Nominating Committee. The Chairperson and Church Council may add or remove additional non-elected members as they deem necessary to accomplish committee goals and/or to utilize the gifts of those within the Church body. These shall be “ad hoc” members of the committee. Ad hoc members may be added on a temporary basis as needed or on an annual basis.

Terms of “ad hoc” members must be affirmed by the Committee Chairperson and a majority vote of the Church Council. Terms of ad hoc members shall end on or before the last day of each calendar year.

Section D – Christian Education Committee Continued

Responsibilities

- The Christian Education Committee shall meet as necessary to accomplish goals and tasks.
- The Christian Education Committee is responsible to the Church Council.
- It shall be the responsibility of the Christian Education Committee to assure effective Christian Education programs for all ages of Church membership. This shall include the operation of an effective Sunday School program. The Christian Education Committee shall select or approve all materials and/or personnel for these programs
- It shall be the responsibility of the Christian Education Committee to select and appoint a Sunday School Superintendent.
- The Christian Education Committee may recruit and utilize Church members and Church friends to assist the Committee in service to a task. These are not to be considered ad hoc committee members.
- The Christian Education Committee Chairperson must be an active voting member of the Church and shall be an active voting member of the Church Council.

Terms of Appointment

The Chairperson of the Christian Education Committee shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a term of three (3) years. Other elected committee members shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a term of three (3) years. No elected member of the Christian Education Committee shall serve for more than six (6) consecutive years as Chairperson. Should an elected member of the Christian Education Committee be unable to complete the full term, the Church President shall, if he/she deems necessary, appoint a replacement who shall fill the position until the next Annual Meeting, at which time the Nominating Committee shall recommend a replacement for the remainder of the term if they deem it necessary. All nominated Christian Education Committee members must be affirmed by a majority vote of the Church body.

Sunday School Superintendent

The Sunday School Superintendent shall:

- appoint Sunday School teachers
- supply substitute teachers
- administer the Sunday School program as approved by the Diaconate.
- appoint Sunday School teachers, a minimum of two (2) to each classroom.

Terms of Appointment

The Sunday School Superintendent shall serve for the entire fiscal year or thereof, not to exceed a total of the four (4) consecutive years.

Section E – Fellowship Committee

Composition

The Fellowship Committee shall consist of a minimum of a nominated and duly elected Chairperson (must be an active voting member of the Church and Church Council.) Other elected members may be nominated and elected as deemed necessary at the discretion of the Pastor and Nominating Committee. The Chairperson and Church Council may add or remove additional non-elected members, as they deem necessary, to accomplish Committee goals and/or to utilize the gifts of those within the Church body. These shall be “ad hoc” members of the Committee. Ad hoc members may be added on a temporary basis as needed or on an annual basis.

Terms of “ad hoc” members must be affirmed by the Committee Chairperson and a majority vote of the Church Council. Terms of ad hoc members shall end on or before the last day of each calendar year.

Responsibilities

- The Fellowship Committee shall meet as necessary to accomplish goals and tasks.
- The Fellowship Committee is responsible to the Church Council.
- It shall be the responsibility of the Fellowship Committee to oversee the social and fellowship activities of the Church. This shall include: Non-worship functions (dinners, receptions, and social functions) involving the entire Church body; arranging for a hospitable welcome or reception of visiting pastors, missionaries, and other guests of the Church.
- The Fellowship Committee may recruit and utilize Church members and Church friends to assist the Committee in service to a task. These are not to be considered ad hoc Committee members.

Terms of Appointment

The Chairperson of the Fellowship Committee shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a term of three (3) years. Other Committee members shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a term of three (3) years. No elected member of the Fellowship Committee shall serve for more than six (6) consecutive years as Chairperson. Should an elected member of the Fellowship Committee be unable to complete the full term, the Church President shall, if he/she deems necessary, appoint a replacement who shall fill the position until the next Annual Meeting; at which time the Nominating Committee shall recommend a replacement for the remainder of the term, if they deem it necessary. All nominated Fellowship Committee members must be affirmed by a majority vote of the Church body.

Section F – Outreach/Missions Committee

Composition

The Outreach/Missions Committee shall consist of a minimum of a nominated and duly elected Chairperson (must be an active voting member of the Church and Church Council.) Other elected members may be nominated and elected as deemed necessary at the discretion of the Pastor and Nominating Committee. The Chairperson and Church Council may add or remove additional non-elected members, as they deem necessary, to accomplish Committee goals and/or to utilize the gifts of those within the Church body. These shall be “ad hoc” members of the Committee. Ad hoc members may be added on a temporary basis as needed or on an annual basis.

Terms of “ad hoc” members must be affirmed by the Committee Chairperson and a majority vote of the Church Council. Terms of ad hoc members shall end on or before the last day of each calendar year.

Responsibilities:

- The Outreach/Missions Committee shall meet as necessary to accomplish goals and tasks.
- The Outreach/Missions Committee is responsible to the Church Council.
- The Outreach/Missions Committee shall be defined as involvement of the Church in local and worldwide activities of evangelism, public welfare, and social action. It shall be the responsibility of the Outreach/Missions Committee to: recommend special outreach projects to the Church Council; review and recommend the distribution of mission benevolence funds to the Church Council; promote the use of the church and its buildings for outreach and mission programs; to advocate the use of the Outreach/Missions program.
- The Outreach/Missions Committee may recruit and utilize Church members and Church friends to assist the Committee in service to a task. These are not to be considered ad hoc Committee members.

Terms of Appointment

The Chairperson of the Outreach/Missions Committee shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a term of four (4) years. Other Committee members shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a term of four (4) years. No elected member of the Outreach/Missions Committee shall serve for more than four (4) consecutive years as Chairperson. Should an elected member of the Outreach/Missions Committee be unable to complete the full term, the Church President shall, if he/she deems necessary, appoint a replacement who shall fill the position until the next Annual Meeting; at which time the Nominating Committee shall recommend a replacement for the remainder of the term, if they deem it necessary. All nominated Outreach/Missions Committee members must be affirmed by a majority vote of the Church body.

Section G – Property Committee

Composition

The Property Committee shall consist of a minimum of a nominated and duly elected Chairperson (must be an active voting member of the Church and Church Council.) Other elected members may be nominated and elected as deemed necessary at the discretion of the Pastor and Nominating Committee. The Chairperson and Church Council may add or remove additional non-elected members, as they deem necessary, to accomplish Committee goals and/or to utilize the gifts of those within the Church body. These shall be “ad hoc” members of the Committee. Ad hoc members may be added on a temporary basis as needed or on an annual basis.

Terms of “ad hoc” members must be affirmed by the Committee Chairperson and a majority vote of the Church Council. Terms of ad hoc members shall end on or before the last day of each calendar year.

Responsibilities

- The Property Committee shall meet as necessary to accomplish goals and tasks.
- The Property Committee is responsible to the Church Council.
- The Property Committee shall oversee the maintenance of all Church properties; employ a custodian if needed for the implementation of normal maintenance; purchase maintenance supplies and materials as needed; oversee activities and employ contractors at the direction of the Church Council to accomplish tasks and repairs as needed.
- The Property Committee may recruit and utilize Church members and Church friends to assist the Committee in service to a task. These are not to be considered ad hoc committee members.

Terms of Appointment

The Chairperson of the Property Committee shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a term of three (3) years. Other Committee members shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a term of three (3) years. No elected member of the Property Committee shall serve for more than six (6) consecutive years as Chairperson. Should an elected member of the Property Committee be unable to complete the full term, the Church President shall, if he/she deems necessary, appoint a replacement who shall fill the position until the next Annual Meeting, at which time the Nominating Committee shall recommend a replacement for the remainder of the term, if they deem it necessary. All nominated Property Committee members must be affirmed by a majority vote of the Church body.

Section H – Stewardship Committee

Composition

The Stewardship Committee shall consist of a minimum of a nominated and duly elected Chairperson (must be an active voting member of the Church and Church Council) and the Church Treasurer. Other elected members may be nominated and elected as deemed necessary at the discretion of the Pastor and Nominating Committee. The Chairperson and Church Council may add or remove additional non-elected members, as they deem necessary, to accomplish Committee goals and/or to utilize the gifts of those within the Church body. These shall be “ad hoc” members of the committee. Ad hoc members may be added on a temporary basis as needed or on an annual basis.

Terms of “ad hoc” members must be affirmed by the Committee Chairperson and a majority vote of the Church Council. Terms of ad hoc members shall end on or before the last day of each calendar year.

Responsibilities

- The Stewardship Committee shall meet as necessary to accomplish goals and tasks.
- The Stewardship Committee is responsible to the Church Council.
- The Stewardship Committee shall prepare, present and provide for the raising of a realistic annual financial budget. They shall oversee invested funds, determine salaries and benefits of Church employees, prepare annual and quarterly financial reports for the Church membership, approve normal disbursements of Church funds in accordance with the wishes of the Church Council, and prepare recommendation for the Church Council concerning any and all investments and unusual financial situations.
- The Stewardship Committee may recruit and utilize Church members and Church friends to assist the Committee in service to a task. These are not to be considered ad hoc committee members.

Terms of Appointment

The Chairperson of the Stewardship Committee shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a term of three (3) years. Other Committee members shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a term of three (3) years. No elected member of the Stewardship Committee shall serve for more than six (6) consecutive years as Chairperson. Should an elected member of the Stewardship Committee be unable to complete the full term, the Church President shall, if he/she deems necessary, appoint a replacement who shall fill the position until the next Annual Meeting, at which time the Nominating Committee shall recommend a replacement for the remainder of the term, if they deem it necessary. All nominated Stewardship Committee members must be affirmed by a majority vote of the Church body.

Section I – Sanctuary Committee

Composition

The Sanctuary Committee shall consist of a minimum of a nominated and duly elected Chairperson (must be an active voting member of the Church and Church Council) the Organist and/or Choir Director. The Pastor, at his/her discretion, shall serve as a member ex officio and shall preside at his/her discretion. Other elected members may be nominated and elected as deemed necessary at the discretion of the Pastor and Nominating Committee. The Chairperson and Church Council may add or remove additional non-elected members, as they deem necessary, to accomplish Committee goals and/or to utilize the gifts of those within the Church body. These shall be “ad hoc” members of the committee. Ad hoc members may be added on a temporary basis as needed or on an annual basis.

Terms of “ad hoc” members must be affirmed by the Committee Chairperson and a majority vote of the Church Council. Terms of ad hoc members shall end on or before the last day of each calendar year.

Responsibilities

- The Sanctuary Committee shall meet as necessary to accomplish goals and tasks.
- The Sanctuary Committee is responsible to the Church Council and is expected to consult with the Pastor on issues of worship and services.
- The Sanctuary Committee shall provide for normal and special worship services. This shall include provision of Church member volunteers to act as ushers to collect offerings at services, greeters to welcome people to services, seating ushers (if needed) for services; provision and supervision of a nursery program during services; provision of a music program for all services (this shall include Worship Team, Organist and/or Choir Director, accompanists, soloists and their equipment) and provision of decorations, flowers and palms for services as needed.
- The Sanctuary Committee may recruit and utilize Church members and friends to assist the Committee to service to a task.
- These are not to be considered ad hoc committee members.

Terms of Appointment

The Chairperson of the Sanctuary Committee shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a term of two (2) years. Other Committee members shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a term of two (2) years. No elected member of the Sanctuary Committee shall serve for more than four (4) consecutive years as Chairperson. Should an elected member of the Sanctuary Committee be unable to complete the full term, the Church President shall, if he/she deems necessary, appoint a replacement who shall fill the position until the next Annual Meeting, at which time the Nominating Committee shall recommend a replacement for the remainder of the term, if they deem it necessary. All nominated Sanctuary Committee members must be affirmed by a majority vote of the Church body.

Article XI – Temporary Committees

Section A – Nominating Committee

Composition

The Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President at the April Church Council meeting and shall consist of at least three active voting Church members.

Responsibilities

- The Nominating Committee shall meet as many times as necessary between April and the October Annual Meeting.
- It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to prepare a slate of prospective officers and elected Committee members to submit at the Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee shall inform the Church membership of those positions under consideration at least ninety (90) days prior to the Annual Meeting.
- The Nominating Committee shall elect a Chairperson (must be an active voting member of the Church) who is responsible to the President and the Church Council.

Terms of Appointment

The Nominating Committee shall be disbanded at the November meeting of the Church Council

Section B – Pastoral Search Committee

Composition

The Pastoral Search Committee shall be appointed by the President and the Chairperson of the Diaconate under the advisement and approval of the Church Council and shall consist of seven (7) active voting Church members. The President shall be a member of the Pastoral Search Committee but shall not be Chairperson.

Responsibilities

It shall be the duty of the Pastoral Search Committee to select a replacement pastor. This shall be done in the following order:

- Interim Pastor: The Pastoral Search Committee is responsible for interviewing and hiring an interim pastor.
- The Ministerial Committee shall visit and interview prospective candidates at a neutral church. (This would be a means of screening the candidates prior to introducing them to the Church body.)
- Upon the selection of a candidate, the Pastoral Search Committee shall negotiate the terms of the contract with the candidate.
- Upon satisfactory completion of negotiation, the candidate shall conduct a service at Christ Community Church.
- Whereupon the Church Membership shall vote (2/3 required) to accept or reject the candidate.

Section B – Pastoral Search Committee – Continued

1. The Pastoral Search Committee shall elect a chairperson (must be an active voting Church member) who shall attend Church Council for the purpose of informing the Congregation.
2. The Pastoral Search Committee shall meet as often as necessary until a replacement pastor has been selected and voted in by the Congregation.

Terms of Appointment

The Pastoral Search Committee shall be appointed when the Church is without a pastor and shall serve for one year, or thirty days after the selection of a replacement pastor, whichever comes first.

Section C – Other Temporary Committees

Other temporary committees shall be established at the discretion of the Church Council. These temporary committees shall serve no longer than one (1) year and shall be responsible to the Church Council or designated standing committee.

Article XII – Amendments

Section A – By-Laws

Amendments may be added to the Constitution by a three-fourths vote of a quorum of active members in attendance at a meeting called for such purposes and preceded by a two-week notice from the pulpit, bulletin boards and/or notices.

Section B – Articles of Faith

The Articles of Faith shall at no time be amended so as to alter the meaning intended by its authors in their historical context.

Article XIII - Dissolution Clause

No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of any member, officer, or any private individual or corporation, so which they may be members, and no member in the distribution of any of the Corporate assets on dissolution of the Corporation.

The said Corporation does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit, incidental or otherwise, to its members.

Upon dissolution, the assets of the Corporation shall be distributed by the Dissolution Board to such organization(s) and for such purposes as in the judgment and discretion of the Dissolution Board will best accomplish the general purposes of this Corporation provided that any such organization(s) shall qualify as exempt under Section 501 © (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended.