



CHARLOTTE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Constitution and Bylaws



SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

NOT APPROVED

All proposed changes are highlighted for ease of review

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I – NAME

SECTION 1 This organization, which had its beginning May 28, 1956, shall be known as the “Charlotte Church of Christ”.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

SECTION 1 The purpose of this congregation shall be to carry out the commands of Christ as contained in the New Testament; the edification of believers; the evangelization of the others for the public worship of God.

SECTION 2 The worship and practice of this congregation shall conform to the ideal of the Church of Christ as portrayed in the New Testament.

ARTICLE III – AUTHORITY

SECTION 1 This organization recognizes the Bible as the Word of God and the New Testament as its authority in matters pertaining to the church. (Christ is the head of the church)

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 Membership shall consist of any person, male or female, who has complied with the following terms as recorded in the New Testament:

- A. Belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and open acknowledgement thereof – John 3:16.
- B. Repentance – Acts 17:30.
- C. Confession – Matthew 10:32 & Matthew 16:16.
- D. Baptism by immersion, as commanded by Christ – Acts 2:38, Acts 22:16 and Mark 16:16.

SECTION 2 Any person may become a member of the congregation upon his / her statement that he / she has complied with the terms of Section 1 of this article.

SECTION 3 Suspension of membership shall result from conduct unbecoming a Christian, as specified in the New Testament and shall be sufficient grounds for withdrawal of membership.

ARTICLE V – AUTONOMY

SECTION 1 The Charlotte Church of Christ is a free and autonomous body, claiming the right of free government and recognizing no outside religious authority or control, except Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE VI – GOVERNMENT

SECTION 1 The governing body of the church shall consist of the elders of the Charlotte Church of Christ.

SECTION 2 Active membership and voting privileges shall be accorded to all members 18 years or over. Any questions regarding the qualifications of a member for voting shall be decided by the elders.

SECTION 3 In the event that the congregation is without a plurality, **(More than one)**, of elders, a steering committee will be elected from the voting membership as described in Article VI Section 2. The purpose of the steering committee would be for the conducting of the spiritual and business affairs of the congregation. The committee shall consist of at least three members.

~~The steering committee candidate should be qualified by the same standards as a deacon, although this selection does not create deacons.~~

Should there not be at least three persons selected to the steering committee the affairs of the congregation will be conducted at monthly congregational meetings.

SECTION 4 Selection of leadership will use the following process:

1. Seek nominations.
 - a. Collect nominations using the “Prospective Leader Nomination Form”.
 - i. This can come from the existing Leadership.
 - ii. This can come from the Minister(s).
 - iii. This can come from the Congregation.
2. Qualify the nominations.
 - a. Selection Committee, this may be a sub – committee of the current leadership or the current leadership, and the evangelist discuss the qualifications of each nomination.
 - b. Conversation with all persons nominated whether the Selection Committee desires to go forward with the nominee or not.
 - i. Those not going forward are encouraged to grow.
 - ii. Those going forward are asked of their desire to serve.
3. Nominee Self-Examination, Cost – Counting, and Orientation.
 - a. Invite nominee to decide if they desire to continue in the process.
 - i. Nominees, selection committee, minister, and wives meet to discuss the impact on family and church relationships.
 - ii. Nominees’ wives, ministers’ wives, and selection committees’ wives discuss the unique challenges of a wife married to a church leader.
 - iii. Joint meeting of nominees and wives to discuss unresolved issues with selection committee.
 - iv. Nominees and their wives are given a period of time to prayerfully consider the cost to self, family, and church.

- b. Nominee decide on willingness to continue in the process.
 - c. Nominee complete a "Gifts Analysis Questionnaire Form".
 - d. Nominee complete an "Introspective Questionnaire Form" for congregational review.
4. Announcement to the congregation of nominee's willingness to proceed with the process and approval by the selection committee.
 - a. Announce all nominees to the congregation.
 - b. Make "Feedback" forms available to congregation.
 - i. Must be signed by member.
 - ii. Encourage objectors to use Matthew 18 to personally resolve any personal issue with specific nominee.
 - c. Allow congregation an opportunity for a conversation with nominees if desired.
 - d. Make "Introspective Questionnaire Form" available to the congregation.
 5. Nominee Examination.
 - a. Over two weeks selection committee receives any "Nominee Feedback" forms.
 - b. Selection Committee evaluates the "Nominee Feedback" forms and discuss concerns with the nominee.
 - i. Nominee may be removed at this point if examination of "Nominee Feedback" produces a lack of qualification.
 - ii. Pastoral care should be made available to all parties as needed.
 - c. Inform nominee of final selection.
 6. Leader Announcement / Ordination.
 - a. Set a public date for leader announcement / ordination during the Sunday AM service.
 7. Leader Integration.
 - a. Use a retreat or workshop to do team building.
 - b. Assimilate new leaders into structure and assignments.
 8. Leader Training
 - a. Set structure and plan for training.
 - i. Leadership concepts and skills.
 - ii. Caring skills.
 - iii. Peacemaking and reconciliation skills.
 - iv. Mentoring and coaching skills.

ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1 This constitution may be amended at any business meeting of the church by a two – thirds vote of the active members present and voting, provided that notice of the proposed amendment has been read at each Sunday morning service for two (2) consecutive Sundays immediately preceding the date which the vote is taken.

Exception: Articles IV and V cannot be amended. Any attempt to amend these articles violates the intent of the founders; and those attempting such action shall forfeit their right of membership and any claim to the property of the Charlotte Church of Christ – Christ is the Head of the Church, 1 Corinthians 3:11.

BY – LAWS

ARTICLE I – OFFICERS

SECTION 1 The officers of the church shall be known as “elders and deacons”. The congregation shall select from its own members a chairman of the congregation, church secretary, church treasurer, and any other officers that it shall deem advisable to carry out its functions for a one (1) year term.

SECTION 1A The elders shall meet to oversee the Spiritual and business affairs of the church. They shall have the privilege of seeking congregational action on any matter if they desire to do so, and shall be required to seek congregational action on the following matters:

- A. The calling or releasing of an evangelist.
- B. Acquiring or disposing of any real estate.
- C. Any other matter they deem necessary.

SECTION 2

- a. **Elders – Number:** The church membership, in accordance with Article VI, Section 2 of the Constitution, shall select a plurality, (More than one), of elders by the procedure in Article VI, Section 4.
- b. **Qualifications:** The qualifications for this office are to be patterned after those listed therefore in the New Testament in such passages as 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.
- c. **Selection:** Elders selection shall follow the procedure in Article VI, Section 4.
- d. **Duties:** The duties of the elders shall be in keeping with the Scriptural usage of the office, the elder being one who is an overseer and shepherd of the “Flock”, which is the church. Elders shall serve and take charge of the leadership in planning and promoting the church’s work. They shall be concerned with the spiritual work, life and welfare of the church. They shall be responsible for what is preached and taught and see that it is in harmony with the church’s avowed purpose, and when it is not, they are to attempt to teach the erring one the truth; failing this, they shall work for the dismissal of same, doing all in love and with the least possible damage to the church. They shall be responsible for recommending discipline where such is advisable and in keeping with Scriptural precedent. (Matthew 18:15 – 17, 1 Corinthians 2:5 – 11).

Elders shall act as the pulpit supply committee and after careful consideration, shall recommend a prospective evangelist for the approval of the congregation.

SECTION 3

- a. **Deacons – Number:** The church membership, in accordance with Article VI, Section 2 of the Constitution, and with recommendation of the church elders and the evangelist shall select deacons, according to their qualifications and congregational needs by using the procedure in Article VI, Section 4.
- b. **Qualifications:** The qualifications for the office of deacon are to be patterned after those listed for the office in the New Testament in such passages as 1 Timothy 3.

- c. Selection: Deacon's selection shall follow the procedure in Article VI, Section 4.
- d. Duties: The duties of the deacons shall be in keeping with the Scriptural meaning of the work, which is "Servant".

SECTION 4

- a. Evangelist – Calling: The elders, as the pulpit supply committee, shall recommend a candidate to the congregation. The congregation at a regular or special meeting shall approve by a two-thirds majority of those voting. Only those eligible under Article VI, Section 2 of the Constitution, shall vote.

Only one candidate for ministry shall be considered. Terms of agreement between the prospective evangelist and the church shall be worked out by him and the elders, and shall be in writing.

- b. Terms of Office: The evangelist shall be called for an indefinite period. If he shall desire to be released from the office, he may do so by notifying the elders 90 days prior to said release. If by a majority vote of church membership desires to release the evangelist, the elders shall give notice of termination to the evangelist. The period of notice may be modified by mutual agreement.
- c. Duties: The evangelist is to preach and teach the gospel of Christ. The evangelist may be invited to all meetings. The evangelist shall not be required to perform such a multiplicity of tasks that his time shall be taken away from study, prayer, teaching, calling, counseling, and such ministries as come naturally to his attention for the spiritual development of the church. Arrangement of the hours which the evangelist spends in the performance of these duties shall be at his discretion, except those duties performed at stated meetings of the church and in its related groups.

ARTICLE II – BUSINESS MEETINGS

SECTION 1

- A. Annual Meeting: Annual meeting of the active membership of the church, for the transaction of business, shall be held on the third Sunday in September, or at another time deemed advisable by the elders. At such meetings, officers shall be elected for the terms designated in Article I, Section I, on October 1. Notice of such meeting shall be by public announcement for two (2) weeks immediately preceding such meeting.

SECTION 2

- A. Special meetings: A special meeting for the transaction of business may be held at the call of the elders or upon written request to the elders or deacons of 25% of the active members of the church. The call shall be by public announcement at two (2) Sunday morning services immediately preceding the meeting and such announcement shall state the purpose of the meeting. At all business meetings of the congregation, a quorum shall consist of 25% of the resident membership.

ARTICLE III – AMENDMENTS

These by-laws may be amended at any business meeting of the church by two-thirds vote of the active members present and voting, provided that notice of the proposed amendment has been read at each regular Sunday morning service four (4) consecutive Sundays immediately preceding the date on which the vote is taken.