

BYLAWS OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST at Crookston, Minnesota

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. Name

- A. This church is incorporated as a not-for-profit religious organization under the name Church of Christ of Crookston.

Section 2. Purpose

- A. The church shall provide for the furtherance of the kingdom of Jesus Christ as outlined in the Scriptures of the New Testament of the Holy Bible.
- B. The church shall endeavor to provide for the common spiritual good of the congregation based on New Testament patterns of evangelism and religious doctrine as exemplified and expressed in Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 2:42-47, Acts 20:7, and like Scriptures.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Qualification for Membership

- A. Membership in this church shall consist of persons who are Christians living under the lordship of Jesus Christ as described in the New Testament.
- B. One may become a member by repenting of their sins, publicly confessing faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, being baptized by immersion in water, or
- C. by transferring membership from another congregation whose membership requirements are in harmony with those of this congregation, either by letter from that congregation or by statement from the individual that they have complied with these requirements.
- D. Members sixteen years of age and older are considered voting members.

Section 2. Termination of Membership

Membership in this church can be terminated for the following reasons:

- A. Transfer of membership to another church
- B. Personal request of the member submitted in writing
- C. A disciplinary action as deemed necessary by the elders or Church Board.

ARTICLE III. CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Section 1. Elders

- A. Elders will consist of two to five male members of the congregation.
- B. The qualifications of elders are derived from such Scriptures as 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, 1 Peter 5:1-5, and shall be adhered to as interpreted by the elders.

Section 2. Terms of Elders

- A. Elders shall serve three year terms
- B. As an elder start-up provision, one individual will serve a one-year term, one individual will serve a two-year term, and the remainder will serve three-year terms. The elders shall determine at their first meeting who shall serve the one, two, and three-year terms.
- C. Elders will be permitted to serve two consecutive terms.
- D. The elders shall evaluate themselves annually to determine or affirm their personal qualification and effectiveness as elders.
- E. If the elders are of the opinion that anyone of their group is not fulfilling his role as elder he can be removed by a majority vote of the eldership.
- F. The congregation can recall elders by a majority of the voting members at the annual meeting or an especially called congregational meeting.

Section 3. Selection of Elders

- A. Candidates for elder will be nominated by a committee appointed by the elders, consisting of voting members of the congregation.
 - 1. The committee will discuss with elder candidates their willingness to serve.
 - 2. The committee will utilize congregational input in their process.
 - 3. The candidates for elder will receive a 100% endorsement of the existing eldership.
- C. A candidate for elder must be affirmed by a 75% approval of the voting members at the annual meeting before he can assume his position as elder.

Section 4. Role and Responsibilities of Elders

- A. The roles and responsibilities of elders are derived from such Scriptures as 1 Peter 5:1-5 and Acts 20:28-31, and James 5:14-15.
- B. The elders will regularly assess the needs of the congregation and set goals accordingly.
- C. The elders will have final responsibility for all decisions regarding the congregation.

Section 5. Delegation of Authority and Responsibility

- A. The elders may delegate authority and responsibility to deacons, deaconesses, ministry leaders, or committees as they deem appropriate in accordance with Scriptural principles.
- B. Those appointed by the elders to handle authority and responsibility will meet with and report to the board regularly.
- C. A treasurer shall be appointed by the elders. The church financial records will be audited on an annual basis. The fiscal year shall be January 1 through December 31.

Section 6. Church Board

- A. The church board shall consist of a) the elders, and b) three to five elected male members of the congregation, who, 1) are at least sixteen years of age, and 2) fulfill Scriptural qualifications of deacons as given in Acts 6 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13.
- B. Church board members will serve two-year terms.
- C. Church board members will be nominated by a committee appointed by the elders, and be elected by a two-thirds majority of votes cast by voting members at the annual meeting.
- D. In the event that there are less than two elders at any time, the existing board will appoint individual male members of the congregation to the church board, whose term(s) would expire at the following annual meeting.
- E. In the event there are no elders the Church Board will have the authority to perform the duties of the elders spelled out in the current bylaws.

Section 7. Trustees

- A. Six trustees shall be elected by the congregation at the annual meeting to fulfill the obligations required by the Articles of Incorporation filed with the State of Minnesota. They shall have three-year terms and at least two will be elected every year.

ARTICLE 1V. PAID STAFF

Section 1. Minister

- A. A minister may be hired by the elders with a written contract and be accountable to them.
- B. The minister will be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Church Board.
- C. Other staff may be hired as deemed necessary by the Church Board.

ARTICLE V. ANNUAL MEETING

- A. The annual meeting shall take place during the last three weeks of January of each year and the date shall be announced at least four weeks before the meeting.
- B. Written minister's report, ministry team reports, and other reports as the elders deem necessary will be presented. The church's goals and finances shall be reviewed.
- C. The election of elders, Church Board and trustees will be conducted by secret ballot of the

- voting members present at the meeting.
- D. The meeting will be led by the Chairman of the Church Board or one of the elders.

ARTICLE VI. AMENDING THE BYLAWS

- A. The bylaws may be changed after proposed changes have been announced and posted for three weeks before the annual meeting and approved by a vote of 75% of the voting members.
- B. Proposed changes or amendments to the bylaws shall be presented in writing to the Chairman of the Church Board, or to one of the elders.
- C. The bylaws will be reviewed and revised as necessary at least every three years.

Approved January 22, 2006

Added Article III, Section 6, paragraph E. Approved in February 2007 at annual meeting.