

Bylaws of Park Chapel Christian Church, Inc.

[Proposed] October 2023

PREAMBLE

Striving to attain the whole measure of the fullness of Jesus Christ, Park Chapel Christian Church, Inc. endeavors to encourage the complete development of each member of the body.

Receiving our commission through Scripture and grounded in the Word, we confidently move forward in faith, fellowship, and fervent prayer.

We show our faith by our works, prayers, and gifts, proclaiming the liberation of mankind through Jesus to our community and world. As a result, we regularly witness God's hand stretched forth to heal those who are in need of physical and spiritual restoration. Members and visitors come to witness, and participate in, God's work.

Through the infinite power of the Holy Spirit in this local body, the consuming fire of God's love is spreading to worldwide mission efforts, financially and prayerfully supported from Greenfield. Our mission outreach partners and missionaries join with us to reach the lost in our community, our nation, and the unreached locations around the world. A strong bond of encouragement, equipping for God's eternal purpose, and mutual spiritual growth spurs us as we unite in completing Jesus' command found in Matthew 28:18-20:

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (NIV)

1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. Shepherds – someone who watches over, looks after, or guides somebody.
 - 1.1.1. Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve – 1 Peter 5:2
- 1.2. Man/Female – All men and women are created by God and are naturally born as male or female in gender. Any references to men and women throughout this document should be known as "naturally-born man" or "naturally-born woman" referring to the natural birth sex of each as designated by God. We do not hold to reassignment of sexes in the ideology of preference, self-identification, or "transformation of gender."
- 1.3. Immorality and Immoral Behavior - the quality of being morally wrong in principle or practice; sin, sinfulness, wickedness, estrangement from God.
 - 1.3.1. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar. I am warning you about these things - as I warned you before - that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. – Galatians 5.19 – 22
- 1.4. Non-vocational Elders – called and affirmed men who serve in the role of spiritual leadership of the church. They are not salaried by the church and do not receive compensation for their leadership.
- 1.5. Vocational Elders – called and affirmed men who serve in the role of spiritual leadership of the church. They are salaried, full-time employees of the church.
- 1.6. Active Elders - Active elders are any elders serving a 4-year term and affirmed vocational elders.
- 1.7. Inactive Elders - Inactive elders are those who have previously served on the Board of Elders, and are in good standing. They can be called upon by the Board of Elders for prayer, service, or counsel. In the event of an Active Elders' resignation, removal, or death, an Inactive Elder may be called upon to complete the Active Elder's term.
- 1.8. Leadership – Used as an act of leading a group of people.
- 1.9. Team Leaders – A state of position or being a leader of a created or assigned team.
 - 1.9.1. Examples: Local Outreach Team, Global Outreach Team, Teaching Team, etc.

2. OFFICES

- 2.1. The offices of the corporation shall be located in Greenfield, Indiana. The corporation may also maintain offices at such other places within or outside the United States as the Board of Directors may determine.

3. ELDERS

3.1. Role/Authority

- 3.1.1. The Eldership shall be comprised of Non-vocational and Vocational Elders.
- 3.1.2. The Elders shall serve as the Board of Directors and the corporate officers of the church.
- 3.1.3. The Elders are the overseers of the church. Decisions, obtained only by consensus of the entire Eldership (not majority vote), have the authority to establish the policies and procedures which affect the spiritual life of the congregation and the operations of the organization.
- 3.1.4. The Elders are to be the shepherds of the members of the congregation and have the responsibility, according to the Scriptures, to render discipline when necessary on the ministry staff, other leaders, and the congregation in general. Matthew 18:15-20; Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2]

3.2. Nomination/Qualifications/Selection for Non-vocational Elders

- 3.2.1. The Elders, as they deem necessary, will review the membership of Park Chapel Christian Church, Inc. for men capable of filling the ministry of Elder. Additionally, as deemed necessary, the Elders will solicit the congregation to nominate new Elder candidates.
- 3.2.2. To serve as an Elder, a candidate must have been a member of Park Chapel for a minimum of 1 year and in good standing according to the Membership Covenant.
- 3.2.3. The descriptions of an Elder are found in 1 Timothy 3:1-13, 1 Timothy 5:17-22, Titus 1:5-9, 1 Peter 5:1-5.
- 3.2.4. When a suitable man is identified and desires to serve as an Elder, he will be called by the Elders.

3.3. Confirmation – A confirmation of 75% of the membership voting is required before a candidate will be ordained to the Eldership of Park Chapel Christian Church, Inc.

3.4. Elder Service Terms

- 3.4.1. Non-vocational Elders will serve a 4-year term; during which they are deemed "Active Elders".
- 3.4.2. At the conclusion of their term, Active Elders will establish with the existing Eldership when they shall start their Inactive term and be ineligible for service for a period of one year; during which time they are deemed "Inactive Elders".

3.4.2.1. Other inactive periods can be arranged with the Elders should circumstances require.

3.4.3. Vocational Elders are salaried pastors and not bound by a term.

3.4.4. Inactive Elders

3.4.4.1. Inactive elders are those who have previously served on the Eldership, and are in good standing. They can be called upon by the Active Eldership for prayer, service, or counsel.

3.4.4.2. In the event of an Active Elder's resignation, removal, or death, an Inactive Elder may be called upon to complete that Active Elder's term.

3.4.4.3. The Active Eldership may call an Inactive Elder to return to Active status for another term. Active status will only apply when the Inactive Elder has the calling and desire to return.

3.4.5. Dismissal

3.4.5.1. An Active Elder can be removed by resignation.

3.4.5.2. An Active Elder can be removed by a consensus of all other Elders that he is no longer suited to the position.

3.4.5.3. Immoral behavior may be cause for dismissal by the Eldership.

3.4.5.4. Divorce will be cause for review by the Eldership.

3.4.5.5. An Elder or an Eldership may be recalled by the congregation keeping with the guidelines of 1 Timothy 5:19-20.

3.4.5.6. In the event that an entire Board of Elders is removed from service, the Inactive Elders will serve as the Board of Elders, filling and completing terms as determined by the new Board of Elders.

3.5. The Vocational Elder

3.5.1. Description of the Office - A Vocational Elder is a church-employed spiritual leader of the church and has oversight of the spiritual life of the church in conjunction with the Elder Body.

3.5.2. Vocational Elders are accountable to the Non-vocational Eldership.

3.5.3. Vocational Elders are limited to no more than 1/3 of the entire Board of Elders.

3.5.3.1. In the event Non-vocational Elders leave the Eldership impacting the 1/3 ratio, there will be a focus of the remaining Eldership to diligently work towards filling the opening(s) needed to maintain the 1/3 target.

3.5.4. Vocational Elders are not able to hold a corporate office and will not be involved in determining their compensation package.

3.5.5. Vocational Elders must have been employed by Park Chapel Christian Church, Inc. for a minimum of 1 year before assuming the role.

3.6. Number of Elders

3.6.1. There is no maximum to the number of Elders. As the Holy Spirit provides men qualified, willing, and affirmed by the congregation to serve as Elders, they may be made part of the Eldership.

3.7. Accountability

3.7.1. The Elders are first of all accountable to the Holy Spirit and are to watch themselves first, then the flock. [Acts 20:28]

3.7.2. The Elders are also accountable to each other just as any other member of the church is under the oversight of the Eldership. [Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2]

3.7.3. The Elders have an accountability also to the congregation in the sense that an accusation can be brought against an Elder or an Eldership according to the guidelines of 1 Timothy 5:19-20. When applicable, Matthew 18:15-17 provides the directives of Jesus in approaching such an encounter. If an entire Eldership falls under discredit with the congregation, the Eldership, can by petition of 33% of the membership, be dismissed by a 65% majority vote of the membership at a congregational meeting called by petition for said purpose.

4. MINISTERIAL POSITIONS

4.1. Ministerial Staff

4.1.1. The ministerial staff of Park Chapel Christian Church, Inc. will be selected by the Elders and/or members of PCCC who are requested by the Elders to participate in the selection process. The ultimate decision for selection and call rests with the Elders and are subject to approval by the congregation. This excludes church staff positions related to areas of administration, facility maintenance, custodial, and logistics & support.

4.1.2. All staff serve at the will of the Elders.

4.1.3. Disciplinary issues are handled at the discretion of the Elders.

4.1.4. Divorce will be cause for review by the Eldership.

4.1.5. Immoral behavior may be cause for dismissal by the Eldership.

4.2. Lay Ministry Leadership

4.2.1. Because of the responsibilities associated with their position, persons in lay ministry leadership positions and teaching roles are subject to the approval of the Elders.

4.2.2. Ministry team leaders must be members of Park Chapel Christian Church, Inc.

4.2.3. All other ministry team members are not required to be members of Park Chapel Christian Church, Inc.

5. CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS & VOTING

- 5.1. Congregational meetings may be called by the to consider matters of significant concern or to respond to emergencies. Unless determined more urgent by the Eldership, at least a two-week notice (oral, written, or electronic) shall be given to the congregation concerning the subject, date, and time of the specially-called business meeting.
- 5.2. A proposed budget will be provided to the members of the congregation for review two (2) weeks prior to the date of the congregational vote to provide opportunity for questions and responses related to the proposal.
- 5.3. The annual congregational vote will be held prior to the end of each calendar year to approve an annual budget and any other applicable business of the congregation.
- 5.4. Members 18 years of age and older are permitted to vote on congregational matters.
- 5.5. A 65% majority of the votes cast are required for approval.
- 5.6. Based on the decision of the Elders, votes will be accepted in writing (paper form), by electronic format (surveys or other voting formats), or both, as circumstances dictate.
- 5.7. All major undertakings, including but not limited to a commitment to a building program and/or expansion of facilities, will require approval by a 65% majority of the votes cast by the membership of Park Chapel Christian Church, Inc.

6. FISCAL YEAR

- 6.1. The fiscal year of the church shall begin January 1st and shall end December 31st.

7. INCORPORATION OF ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

The Park Chapel Christian Church, Inc. Membership Covenant and Statement of Faith documents are hereby expressly made a part of this document and are incorporated by reference into these bylaws as if fully written herein.

8. AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended at any time after said amendments are approved at a special congregational meeting by a vote of 65% of the membership of Park Chapel Christian Church, Inc. then present and voting. There will be a congregational meeting 2 weeks prior to this vote to present the proposed amendments.

ADOPTION

These bylaws were adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting at a duly called meeting of the church.

These bylaws supersede any other bylaws of the church.

Date _____

Signature(s) _____