

BY-LAWS OF THE SPENCER CHRISTIAN CHURCH, INC.

We, the Directors of the SPENCER CHRISTIAN CHURCH, INC , a corporation, organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, being an independent, autonomous, local congregation of Christians, at a meeting duly called for said purpose, do hereby adopt these By-Laws to wit:

ARTICLE I: AUTONOMY

The Spencer Christian Church is an independent, autonomous, local congregation of Christians after the Divine pattern as set forth in the New Testament Scriptures. At no time has it made any contribution, passed any law, enacted any motion, formed any alliance of fellowship that would make it any part of anything other than a local congregation of free men and women in Jesus Christ, interested in the spread of the gospel of the risen Christ throughout the world, for the redemption of men and women from the consequences of sin and evil, nor does it intend to make any contribution, pass any law, enact any motion, or form any alliance of leadership that would make it a part of anything other than said local congregation.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of Spencer Christian Church is to carry out the will of Christ, as expressed in the Holy Bible. A congregation devoted to loving God completely, focused on loving the community with the love of Christ (Matthew 22: 34-40, Matthew 28: 18-20). The Spencer Christian Church is to be a non-denominational Christian Church, and shall be strictly congregational in form of government and shall have no creed or article of faith other than those contained in the New Testament, and in which church the biblical ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper shall be practiced.

Statement of Biblical Truths Regarding Marriage

God created the first marriage as a sacred covenant relationship between one man and one woman for the purposes of procreation, companionship, and dominion over creation, in keeping with the covenant relationship God himself established with his own creation (Genesis 2:15-24; Romans 1:16-32).

Jesus blessed a marriage celebration between a man and a woman with His presence and His first public miracle, thereby affirming the traditional definition of marriage as a cornerstone of every culture and community (John 2:1-11). He taught of the importance of marriage as a part of His "Sermon on the Mount", by stating, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be united with his wife, and the two will become one flesh." (Matthew 19:5). The Apostle Paul also upholds marriage as the union between one man and one woman in his instruction to husbands and wives (1 Corinthians 7:1-2; Ephesians 5:22-33).

Society historically has embraced this traditional definition of marriage, eschewing all other unions as unnatural, inappropriate, and anti-social, and has advocated the family unit of husband

and wife and their children as the chief building block of society (Leviticus 18:22-30; Psalm 127:3-5; Romans 1:16-32; Hebrews 13:4). The marriage union of same sex individuals is in direct violation of God's Holy Bible and therefore deemed sinful.

Spencer Christian Church defines marriage by its biblical definition and not by a man made standard. Marriage is the union between one man and one woman. This Church intentionally adheres to the highest standards for marriage, namely biblical standards, and that other legal definitions and court actions are secondary to biblical mandate.

Spencer Christian Church affirms that all marriage ceremonies performed in the name of this Church and any related celebrations or activities allowed in its facilities shall be for unions that meet the standards named in this church's By-Laws, and further, that church ministers and staff engage only in marriage ceremonies in keeping with this church's adopted biblical definition of marriage.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

The invitation to membership in Spencer Christian Church shall be extended to all who have complied with the New Testament terms of salvation which is the acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior, a willingness to follow him as He has commanded in the Bible, and immersion in the New Testament Baptism which is the burial in water by the penitent believer for the remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). Each member will have the responsibility to carry out the Great Commission according to Christ's command (Matthew 28. 16-20)

ARTICLE IV: INDEPENDENCE

The Spencer Christian Church shall look with fraternal favor upon the activities of all Christian congregations, but shall exist as a separate corporation, unattached to any, and beyond any control - real, actual, or advisory, of any other church, congregation, fellowship, agency, organization, publishing house, college or seminary, missionary society, local, county, state, district, national or international convention, rally or organization, religious or otherwise, now existing or ever to be formed.

ARTICLE V: GOVERNANCE

The Spencer Christian Church, as a New Testament congregation, shall be governed in all matters of faith and doctrine and Christian practice by the teaching of Christ and His apostles, as contained in the twenty-seven (27) New Testament books and the thirty-nine (39) books of the Old Testament, which the Spencer Christian Church holds to be the divinely inspired word of God.

The Spencer Christian Church is first and foremost a spiritual entity, as a New Testament Congregation, and as such, it vests in the Elders of the Spencer Christian Church the right, duty, and responsibility to perpetually act for it in matters of faith, doctrine, spiritual matters, Christian practice, teachings, worship and fellowship as set forth in the Word of God.

The Spencer Christian Church is also a civil entity, being a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and as such, in all matters of civil policy and procedure, it shall be governed in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, these By-Laws, and the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. In order to conduct the civil and legal affairs of the Church in an "orderly and decent" manner, as prescribed in I Corinthians 14:40, the members vest in the Elders, or their appointed representatives, the privilege and responsibility to act for them in all routine matters incidental to the usual church operation. In addition, the members vest in the Elders the authority to guide the church in all spiritual matters (1 Peter 5:1-4, Hebrews 13:17), and to resolve disputes within the church (Acts 15:1-2). The members retain the final voice in all matters regarding the sale or purchase of real property, the encumbrance of real property and the annual church budget.

ARTICLE VI: MEMBERS

Section 1: Members in Good Standing

The qualifications for membership are defined in ARTICLE III. Any member who is absent from the church for one year or more except for the cause of illness shall automatically cease to be called an active member and shall not vote in congregational meetings.

Section 2: Congregational Meetings

(A) Annual Meeting: The annual meeting of the members (congregational meeting) shall be held on the second Sunday of November of each year, at the church. Notice of the annual congregational meeting shall be given. (1) from the pulpit on the two preceding weekend services; (2) in the two regular church bulletins of the congregation immediately preceding the meeting date.

(B) Special Meetings: Special meetings of the members may be called by the majority of the Elders. If any member would like for a special meeting to be called they may petition the Elders. If not otherwise designated, the place of the meeting shall be the church.

(C) Notice of Meetings. Notice of Special congregational meetings shall be announced during weekend worship services or printed in the church bulletin at least two weeks in advance of such meetings.

(D) Quorum: A quorum shall consist of the number of active members present at any annual meeting or duly called special meeting of the congregation.

(E) Absentee Ballots. All members eligible to vote, who are unable to attend a weekend voting meeting, are entitled, upon request, to a ballot. Said request shall be made not more than 14 days prior to said meeting. The ballot shall be returned to the church office, in a sealed envelope, prior to the scheduled meeting, and shall be tabulated with the ballots cast at said meeting.

(F) Elections. Voting for elected positions, annual budget approval, and bylaw amendments (if any) will be held immediately after all services on the weekend following the annual meeting.

ARTICLE VII: SERVANT LEADERS

The servant leaders of Spencer Christian Church shall consist of Elders, Deacons, and Trustees. Spencer Christian Church as a New Testament congregation shall be governed in all matters of policy and procedure by the will of Christ. The congregation vests in the servant leaders of the church the privilege of acting on behalf of the congregation. The servant leaders shall be elected by the congregation.

ARTICLE VIII: THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Section 1: The Nominating Committee shall consist of Elders and the Senior Minister.

Section 2: The Elders and Senior Minister and other ministers of the church shall be constantly vigilant as to those men within the congregation who seem to possess qualities of leadership for Elder and Deacon as defined in the New Testament. At any time during the year a candidate may be identified and brought to the attention of the Nominating Committee for prayer and careful consideration. The person in question shall not be notified of his consideration at this time.

Section 3: The Elders and Senior Minister shall be in continual prayer for any proposed candidates for a period not less than three months, prior to announcing the candidate to the congregation.

Section 4: The Elders shall adopt a screening process for the identification and acceptance of a candidate and shall keep a "Servant Leaders" package at the church building for examination by any member of the congregation.

ARTICLE IX: RATIFICATION PROCESS

A "SLATE OF CANDIDATES" will be published at least two weeks prior the "Annual Congregational Meeting" with all Elder, Deacon and Trustee candidates named. All members of the congregation at the weekend services the weekend immediately following the Congregational Meeting will be given a ballot with the slate of candidates, the proposed budget, and any amendments to the bylaws (if any).

The members have the opportunity to vote for each candidate individually. Seventy-Five percent (75%) affirmative votes of all votes cast shall be required to approve a candidate. All no votes must be signed and reason given for the no vote.

If a no vote is cast against an Elder, the other Elders and Senior Minister will investigate the reason given for the no vote to determine if it is a valid scriptural concern. If a scriptural objection has been raised they will act to resolve the issue or remove the Elder from consideration. If no votes are cast for any of the other candidates the Elders will investigate and take appropriate action.

If the proposed budget is voted down, the church will continue to operate under the budget currently in place until a new budget is voted upon, which will take place within four weeks of the original vote. The revote will take place after weekend services in the same manner as the original vote. The revote will be announced from the pulpit and in the church bulletin

during the weekend services immediately preceding the revote. If that proposed budget is voted down, the process will continue until a budget is approved.

ARTICLE X. DUTIES OF SERVANT LEADERS

Section 1: The Elders shall be members of Spencer Christian Church and must believe without reservation in the full and final inspiration of the Bible to the extent that it is to them the infallible Word of God and, therefore, the all sufficient rule of faith and practice. They must believe without reservation in the deity and supreme authority of Christ, the virgin birth of Christ, and the bodily resurrection of Christ. The Elders shall have authority and qualifications as outlined in Titus 1:5-9, I Timothy 3:1-7, and I Peter 5:1-5. They are spiritual overseers and are to consider it their duty and privilege to oversee the spiritual, educational, devotional, evangelistic and any other matters as contained in the New Testament.

Section 2: The Elders shall meet periodically Two-thirds (2/3) of the elected Elders shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3: The Elders shall oversee the congregation (I Peter 5:1-5), in an orderly fashion and proper records kept. The dismissal of a minister shall be taken care of by them, but other matters of great importance, such as the calling of a senior minister, or the building of a house of worship shall be referred to the church for final action. Dismissal of the senior minister by the Elders shall require a 2/3 vote of all the Elders.

Section 4: The Deacons shall work in conformity with I Timothy 3:8-13 and are intended to be the servants of the Church and shall help implement the directives of the Elders. The Deacons shall be responsible for the physical needs of the church. They will meet in a joint meeting with the Elders when needed to carry out the physical needs of the church. Each Deacon will lead in specific ministry area. They will work with a committee of people from the congregation to fulfill the needs of their specific ministry.

Section 5: The Elders will oversee the budgeting process and appoint qualified individuals to serve as the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee shall meet in October to plan the budget for the coming year.

Section 6: The Elders and Deacons shall be held responsible to the congregation for their acts, and shall not perform any act contrary to the New Testament or these regulations. The Elders shall not permit any outside person or agency to gain control over this church, nor shall they engage in agreement which in anyway endangers the autonomy of this church. The financial support given or received by this church from any person or agency shall not be construed in any way to abridge the autonomy of this church.

ARTICLE XI: BY-LAW CHANGES OR AMENDMENTS

Section 1: Any proposed amendments to the By-Laws of the Spencer Christian Church must be approved by the Elders. After their approval, the proposed amendment shall be posted at the church for a period of two weeks prior to the congregational meeting duly called for said purpose in accordance with these By-Laws. Seventy-five (75%). percent vote by printed ballot, by the

members attending the special meeting shall be necessary to adopt any amendments to the By-Laws of the Spencer Christian Church.

Section 2: The Elders shall review these By-laws and, when deemed in the best interest of the church, shall make recommendations to change, add or delete such as may be necessary to achieve the optimal result.

ARTICLE XII: ADOPTION

These By-Laws shall be in full Force and effect immediately upon their adoption by the Directors of Spencer Christian church, in a meeting duly called for said purpose.

Adopted this _____ day of _____ 2____

DIRECTOR _____

DIRECTOR _____

DIRECTOR _____