

CONSTITUTION

**DISCIPLES CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

BARTLESVILLE, OKLAHOMA

Approved: 12/8/24

CONSTITUTION
OF
DISCIPLES CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
BARTLESVILLE, OKLAHOMA

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ARTICLE I

NAME AND PURPOSE

SECTION A: NAME

The name of this congregationally governed body, incorporated under the laws of the State of Oklahoma, shall be DISCIPLES CHRISTIAN CHURCH, (Disciples of Christ), Bartlesville, Oklahoma and affiliated with and committed to the historic principles of the body whose local congregations are known as Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

SECTION B: PURPOSE

The purpose of this congregation is to provide an inclusive community where all people who seek to love and be loved experience Divine love, compassion, and connection, and to bring about the kin-dom of God by serving the community and learning and practicing what it means to be followers of Jesus.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this congregation shall consist of people who commit to following the ways of Jesus. New members may commit as first-time followers of Jesus, by transfer of membership from another congregation, or by requesting dual membership. Voting privileges shall be accorded to all participating members.

ARTICLE III

RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONGREGATION

This congregation shall manage its affairs through its General Board; organize and carry out its purpose; establish its budgets and financial policies; call its minister(s) and employ other staff; and participate, through chosen representatives, in Regional and General assemblies of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in forming the corporate judgments of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This congregation shall own, control, and encumber its property according to the laws of this state. Encumbrance of property can only be accomplished by a majority vote of the congregation present and voting at a duly called meeting.

This congregation shall share the good news of Love with all people, administer baptism and communion; provide for spiritual nurture; transcend all barriers to healthy community, and practice faithful and transparent stewardship.

This congregation shall sustain its minister(s) in faithfulness and honor, and in matters pertaining to relationships with the minister(s) may seek counsel from the Regional or Associate Regional Minister when necessary.

ARTICLE IV
CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

SECTION A: FREQUENCY

1. At least one business meeting of the congregation shall be held during the church year.
2. Special meetings of the congregation may be called at any time by the President, Senior Minister, Board of Trustees, or upon the written petition of ten (10) members of the participating church membership.

SECTION B: NOTICE

Notice of congregational meetings shall be given as follows:

1. Announced at regular Sunday Services at least two Sundays in advance of the meeting,
and
2. Notice given to members of the Church at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the meeting via one or more of the following methods:
 - a. The church newsletter; or
 - b. A letter mailed through the US Postal Service; or
 - c. An e-mail

SECTION C: AGENDA

1. Any business pertaining to the life of the congregation may be proposed and discussed at a regular business meeting.
2. Only the business stated in the notice of special congregational meetings may be brought for discussion and action.

SECTION D: QUORUM

A quorum for any congregational meeting shall be defined as all of the participating members present and voting on the date of the meeting.

SECTION E: VOTING

1. Each member present in either a regular or special congregational meeting shall be allowed one vote.
2. Unless otherwise stated in this Constitution or its Bylaws, all actions shall be approved by a simple majority.
3. Remote voting via email is acceptable when pre-authorized by either the Board President or a trustee.

SECTION F: RULES OF ORDER

Unless otherwise stated in this Constitution or its Bylaws, all congregational meetings will be governed by the current Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS AND GENERAL BOARD - ELDERS, DEACONS, TRUSTEES, AND APPOINTED POSITIONS

SECTION A: GENERAL BOARD

1. The General Board shall consist of the President, the Vice President, the Recording Secretary, the Treasurer, the Trustees, the Chair of Elders, the Chair of Deacons, the Commission Chairs, and other individuals who may be designated to General Board membership as indicated by the Bylaws.
2. The General Board shall be responsible for determining general policies of the congregation and making appropriate recommendations to the congregation as needed. It shall transact the business of the congregation and direct the administration of its programs. It shall approve the annual budget and any other significant matters before recommending them to the congregation for approval.

SECTION B: OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL BOARD AND CONGREGATION

1. The officers are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. This group shall be known as the "Executive Committee."
2. Each of the above shall be elected for a one-year term with a limit of two (2) successive years. The Board may elect to extend the term of the Treasurer because of the unique skillset required by that position.

SECTION C: ELDERS, DEACONS, AND TRUSTEES

ELDERS

The congregation shall elect Elders to serve on the Board of Elders. The slate of Active Elders shall be no less than ten, and there is no limit placed on the maximum number of Elders elected.

The roles and responsibilities of the Elders shall be based on scripture. The Elders shall lead the congregation in spiritual development, growth, and welfare. Responsibilities of the Board of Elders shall include but are not limited to the following:

1. Preparing and serving at the communion table.
2. Taking communion to those unable to attend worship.
3. Regularly contacting members of the congregation to support them in their spiritual development, growth, and welfare.
4. Making recommendations to the Nominating Committee of persons ready to become Elders. It is not required that new Elders be elected each year, Elders shall use their best judgment in recommending new candidates for election.
5. Active Elders shall meet as called by the Chair of the Elders to:
 - a. Select a Chair of Elders.
 - b. Make recommendations to the Nominating Committee for the following year.
 - c. Address matters concerning the spiritual life of the congregation.

DEACONS

The congregation shall elect Deacons and high school-age Junior Deacons to assist with worship. There shall be no limit on successive years of service as Deacon or Junior Deacon.

The roles and responsibilities of the Deacons shall be based on scripture. The Deacons shall nurture and serve the congregation. Responsibilities of the Deacons shall include are not limited to the following:

1. Serving communion to the congregation.
2. Collecting offering during worship.
3. Ensuring sanctuary, gathering areas, and communion trays/supplies are prepared for future use.
4. Meeting at least annually to review the duties of the Deacons and serving procedures.

TRUSTEES

The congregation shall elect three Trustees, each serving a staggered three-year term with each term ending in different years. A Trustee shall not be eligible for reelection to a new three-year term until the lapse of one year. Responsibilities of the Trustees are as defined in the By-Laws.

SECTION D: QUALIFICATIONS

All officers, Elders, Deacons, and Trustees are to be participating members of the congregation who strive to follow the ways of Jesus and have made their participation in the life of DCC a priority.

SECTION E: HONORARY ELDERS AND DEACONS

Some who because of infirmity and/or advanced age and who have been noted for their service and commitment to DCC through the years may be retired from active service and be elected to these offices. They may continue to serve in these offices and attend Board meetings as they wish. They will be non-voting members of the Board.

ARTICLE VI

DISSOLUTION

Should this congregation disband or elect to disassociate from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), title to all church property, personal or real, tangible or intangible, shall automatically vest in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma immediately upon such disbanding or disassociation. This will be by congregational action requiring a 75% majority of those participating members present and voting.

ARTICLE VII

AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any congregational meeting by a 2/3 majority vote of members present and voting on the amendment(s) provided:

1. The amendment(s) has been previously approved by a 2/3 majority vote of the General Board members voting at a regular scheduled or special General Board meeting;
2. The proposed amendment(s) has been published in the Sunday worship bulletin at least two consecutive Sundays prior to the date the proposed amendment(s) is to be voted on by the congregation; and
3. The proposed amendment(s) has been printed in the church newsletter or special letter mailed at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date the proposed amendment(s) is to be voted on by the congregation.

This Constitution is to be reviewed at least every five (5) years. The present Constitution and proposed Constitution will be available online and copies will be available in the church office at least fourteen days (14) prior to a vote by the congregation.

Commented [KB1]: Removed letter hand-delivered option.