

CONSTITUTION OF
CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
OF AUSTIN TEXAS
adopted January 1, 1999

PREAMBLE

We, the members of Central Christian Church of Austin, Texas, a Congregationally governed body, in order to promote the work of the church in the spirit of Christ and thus advance His Kingdom, do hereby adopt this Constitution, as of January 1, 1999.

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1.1 Name

The name of this organization shall be Central Christian Church of Austin Texas, affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and committed to the historic principles of this brotherhood.

Section 1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this Church shall be as revealed in the New Testament to win people to faith in Jesus Christ; to commit them actively to the Church; to help them grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ that increasingly they may know and do His will; and to work for the unity of all Christians engaging in the common task of building the Kingdom of God.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

Section 2.1 Church Membership

The membership of this Church shall consist of those who are presently identified as members and those who shall unite with it by baptism, reaffirmation of faith, or transfer of membership.

Section 2.2 Classification

Active members are those who demonstrate their interest in the Church by attendance, giving or participating in any area of the Church's life.

Inactive members are those who do not participate in any way in the life of the church.

ARTICLE III. OFFICERS

Section 3.1 Officers of the Church

The nominees for office shall be active members of this Church. They shall be elected by the membership at a congregational business meeting and each shall serve for a term as designated, or until such time as a successor is elected and assumes office.

Section 3.2 Succession

No Elder, member of the Diaconate, or Trustee may succeed himself or herself in office. A period of one year must elapse between terms. If a member of the Diaconate is elected Elder, he or she may serve three years from the date of election.

Section 3.3 The Elders

There shall be one (1) Elder to every fifty (50) active members of the Church, but there shall be no less than twelve (12) Elders, one-third of whom shall be elected annually to serve a three-year term.

Section 3.4 The Diaconate

There shall be a Diaconate composed of an adequate number of Deacons and Deaconesses as may be needed, in the judgment of the Congregation, to serve the purposes of the Congregation. Terms of office shall be for three years with, as nearly as practical, one third of the Diaconate elected each year. In no case shall there be less than forty eight (48) members of the Diaconate.

Section 3.5 The Junior Diaconate

There shall be a number of Junior Diaconate that consists of church members age 14 to 18, inclusive. They shall be nonvoting board members.

Section 3.6 Trustees

There shall be five (5) Trustees who shall be elected initially for the following terms:

- (a) Two members to serve for a term of three years.
- (b) Two members to serve for a term of two years.
- (c) One member to serve for a term of one year.
- (d) Thereafter, as each member's term expires, new Trustees elected shall serve for a term of three years, but no more than two Trustees may be elected each year.

Section 3.7 Officers

The following officers of the Congregation and General Board shall be elected annually to serve for a term of one year:

- (1) Chairman
- (2) Vice Chairman
- (3) Secretary
- (4) Treasurer
- (5) Church Clerk
- (6) Church Historian

Section 3.8 Officers Emeriti: Elders, Deacons, Deaconesses

The honorary officers designated as emeriti from the ranks of Elders and the Diaconate shall be relieved of all regular duties. Their attendance at meetings of the Board is encouraged, but not required.

- (a) Qualifications
The nominees for office of emeriti positions shall be active members of this Church. It is expected that they shall be at least 75 years of age and shall have actively served the church for at least 25 years.
- (b) Number
There shall be no fixed number of such persons. All persons who are qualified may be nominated. All persons nominated may be elected.
- (c) Nominations
A suggestion for an emeritus position shall be made directly to the Nominating Committee by any member of the congregation.
- (d) Election
upon recommendation of the General Board these nominees shall be presented to the Congregation for its vote.

ARTICLE IV. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 4.1 Chairman

The chairman shall call and preside at all regular or special business meetings of the Congregation, the General Board, and fulfill the other usual duties of such an officer.

Section 4.2 Vice Chairman

The Vice Chairman shall, in the absence of the Chairman, call and preside at all regular or special business meetings of the Congregation, the General Board, and fulfill the other usual duties of such an officer.

Section 4.3 Secretary

the Secretary shall keep minutes of all regular and special business meetings of the Congregation, the General Board, and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned.

Section 4.4 Elders

The Elders, in partnership with the paid professional Minister, are the Spiritual Mentors of the Church. They cooperate with the functional departments to: promote the growth and welfare of the Church; encourage regular attendance at the Lord's Supper; visit the sick; exercise concern for the morally delinquent and spiritually indifferent; give prayerful consideration to the policies of this Church that they may enable it to fulfill its complete Mission; encourage by example and by word the outreach, missionary, evangelistic, educational and stewardship opportunities of this Church; serve at the Lord's Table and perform such other duties as may be needed.

Section 4.5 Deacons

The Deacons, in cooperation with functional departments, shall: cooperate with the Elders in promoting the growth and welfare of the Church; assist in the greeting and ushering of the worshippers; distribute the Lord's Supper and receive the offerings; assist in financial canvases, visitation projects, and preparation of candidates for baptism; counsel and serve in the business affairs

and program activities of this Church; cooperate in ministering to the needy; and perform such other duties as may be assigned.

Section 4.6 Deaconesses

The Deaconesses, in cooperation with functional departments, shall perform the same general duties as the Deacons and cooperate with them in promoting the growth and welfare of the Church; take responsibility for the preparation and care of the communion service; minister to families in times of sickness or bereavement; counsel and serve in the business affairs and program activities of this Church; and perform such other duties as may be assigned.

Section 4.7 Trustees

The Trustees shall act as the legal agents of this Church in all business matters, under the direction of the General Board and subject to the approval of the Congregation; hold legal title to all Church property and handle all business transactions related thereto; have supervision over all endowment and trust funds; and perform such duties as are required by the laws of the State of Texas.

Section 4.8 Church Clerk

The Church Clerk shall keep a complete record of the Church membership and such vital statistics as births, deaths, baptisms and weddings.

Section 4.9 Treasurer

The Treasurer shall keep an individual account record of each contributor; send out statements as directed by the General Board; disburse all funds of this Church according to the authority delegated to him by the General Board; serve as a member of the Stewardship and Finance Department; receive and make a record of all funds and deposit them in the proper Church accounts; reconcile all bank accounts monthly; and present a regular report at each meeting of the General Board and an annual report to the Congregation. To preserve the security of the Church funds, anyone serving as Treasurer shall be bonded.

Section 4.10 Church Historian

The Church Historian shall gather and preserve data pertaining to the history, life and work of this Church; make available for publication any historical materials

authorized by this Church and present to the General Board the annual historical statements.

ARTICLE V. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 5.1 Nomination

There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of the Chairman of the Elders, the Chairman of the Deacons, the Chairman of the Deaconesses and the Chairman of the Trustees, or their representatives, and not more than four (4) active members appointed by the Chairman of the Congregation and General Board and approved by the General Board at its February meeting. The Nominating Committee shall serve for that calendar year.

Section 5.1.a

The Nominating Committee shall consider qualifications, inform each nominee of the responsibilities and duties of the office, secure consent to be a nominee and prepare a slate of nominees as new officers of the Congregation and General Board for the following year. All suggestions from members of the Congregation for nominees shall be in the hands of the Nominating Committee at least by October 1st, prior to the November General Board meeting. They shall submit the nominees for officers of this Church to the General Board for approval not later than the November meeting. The General Board shall then submit these nominees to the Congregation at a meeting to be held in December for election.

Section 5.1.b

The Nominating Committee shall consider for office only active members of this Church. Nominees must be persons who have demonstrated their loyalties to this Church by their participation in the study and worship and fellowship functions of this Church. Nominees must show their support of this Church by giving to the budget of this Church. They must be willing to attend as many General Board meetings as for them is feasible. They must be willing to serve on one of the functional departments of the General Board. These expectations and/or qualifications and the duties of the respective offices must be read to prospective nominees by a representative of the Nominating Committee.

Section 5.2 Voting

All nominees who receive a majority of the votes cast by those present and voting at the December Congregational Meeting shall be declared elected. The voting may be by written ballot or as otherwise directed by the Chairman of the Congregation and General Board.

Section 5.3 Vacancies

Vacancies occurring in any office of this Church shall be filled for the remainder of the current calendar year by nomination of the Committee and election by the Board.

Section 5.4 Removal From Office

Any elected officer may be removed from office by a vote of 75% of the entire General Board, not merely of those present at any given meeting. Any elected officer may be removed from office by a vote of 51% of those present at any Congregational Meeting. Any appointed officeholder, not including paid staff such as a pulpit minister or youth minister, may be removed by a majority of the appointing official(s).

ARTICLE VI. THE GENERAL BOARD

Section 6.1 Membership

The General Board shall consist of: (1) all elected officers of this Church; and (2) as ex-officio members, the Chairman of the Christian Women's Fellowship, the Chairman of the Christian Men's Fellowship, the president of each youth group and the chairmen of functional departments or their representatives.

Section 6.2 Duties

It shall be the duty of the General Board:

- (a) To consider and recommend general policies to the Congregation.
- (b) To transact business.
- (c) To administer the program of this Church through the designated functional departments.

Section 6.3 Authority

The authority of the Congregation shall be vested in the General Board between meetings of the Congregation. The General Board shall perform its duties according to the authority granted in this Constitution or delegated to it by the Congregation. Regular reports shall be made to the Congregation.

ARTICLE VII. THE MINISTERS

Section 7.1 Duties

The ministers of this Church shall perform the duties which usually pertain to that office, and as spiritual and administrative advisers of this Church, they shall be ex-officio members of all organized groups.

Section 7.2 Selection

The ministers shall be chosen by this Church as hereinafter provided:

~~(a) A representative committee of five (5) active members elected by the General Board, shall serve as the pulpit committee and be responsible for recommending prospective ministers to the General Board. The pulpit committee shall serve for that calendar year. [On 9/28/2003 the Congregation amended 7.2(a) to read as follows:]~~

(a) A representative and diverse committee of not fewer than seven (7) nor more than nine (9) active members shall serve as pulpit committee and be responsible for recommending prospective ministers to the General Board. The committee members shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Board and presented to the General Board for approval. The committee appointed shall serve until a new minister is hired.

(b) The General Board shall consider the recommendation of the pulpit committee, and if it approves, recommend the prospective ministers to the Congregation for approval.

(c) The recommendation of the General Board must be accepted by at least a two-thirds majority of members present and voting in a regular or special business meeting of the Congregation before a call may be extended.

(d) The pulpit Committee shall utilize the services of the Christian Church's executive regional minister for information and counsel

concerning prospective candidates.

(e) The term of ministerial service shall be for an indefinite period and may be terminated by either party upon ninety (90) days' [written] notice. A written statement setting forth the salary to be paid and other conditions of the call shall be made in triplicate, one copy for the Minister, one for this Church, and one for the regional office.

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

Section 8.1 Congregational Meetings

There shall be an annual meeting of the Congregation in January of each year for the submission of annual reports. There shall also be an annual meeting in December for the election of officers of the Congregation and General Board. Notice of all regular or special business meetings of the Congregation shall be given at a regular Sunday service of this Church at least one week in advance of the meeting.

Section 8.2 General Board Meetings

(a) The General Board shall hold its regular meetings once a month.

(b) The General Board shall hold special meetings as required on call of the Chairman or upon request of 20% or more members of the General Board.

(c) Special board meetings require notification of all board members. The Chairman of the Board will use due diligence in notifying the board members of the special meeting.

Section 8.2 Rules of Order

All business meetings of the Congregation and the General Board shall be governed by Roberts' Rules of Order, as revised.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any business meeting of the Congregation by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting on the amendment. Announcement of the proposed amendment(s) will be made at one meeting of the General Board and copies of the proposed amendments will be made available at the time the amendments are announced at a regular Sunday service at least two weeks before the vote is taken.