

THE CONSTITUTION OF  
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
LAWRENCE, KANSAS

**I. Name**

The corporate name of this organization shall be First Christian Church of Lawrence, Kansas. We are affiliated with and committed to the original principles of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

**II. Mission Statement**

First Christian Church exists to make disciples of Jesus. First Christian's ministries are committed to teaching disciples to obey everything that Jesus commanded (Matt. 28:19), expressed by **Gather, Grow, Go**. We **Gather** to worship and care for our community; we **Grow** to be like Jesus; we **Go** to share the gospel and serve the world.

**III. Statement of Faith**

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has no denominational creed or formal doctrinal statement other than "Jesus is Lord." Our local congregation, however, further affirms the following truths as essential.

*We believe that God, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe, eternally exists in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe that He revealed Himself through Jesus Christ the Son of God; that Jesus died on the cross for our sins; that by His death Jesus demonstrated God's love and mercy towards us, and provided the sole means by which any can be reconciled to Him. That this reconciliation is accomplished by grace through faith alone and not because of any effort of our own. We believe that by Christ's resurrection God demonstrated His power over death; that this power is now at work in us through the Holy Spirit; and that each believer is uniquely gifted by the Spirit for the purpose of making disciples of all nations.*

*We accept the entire Bible as God's revelation to us, as authoritative in determining what we believe and how we are to live our lives. We acknowledge its testimony that Jesus Christ is Lord over all Creation and Savior of all who voluntarily place themselves under His Lordship. As the fullness of God revealed to us in the flesh, Jesus Christ is the focus of our faith and the source of our unity, uniting us in our common commitment to Him as Lord. As a local community of believers, we acknowledge our unity with other communities of faith worldwide which acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord.*

**IV. Membership**

Membership shall be established by a personal profession of faith, affirming that Jesus Christ, the unique Son of God, is Savior and Lord; affirming agreement with the Statement of Faith (Article III); verifying that he or she has been baptized with water or is seeking to be baptized, and committing to participate and assist in the mission of First Christian Church. A letter of transfer from the candidate's previous church may be offered in support of their profession of faith.

## **V. Government**

The government of the church is vested in its membership. The membership elects Elders and Trustees. The Personnel Board is comprised of representatives of the Elders, the Trustees, and the congregation. The membership of the church hires the Senior/Lead Pastor. Subject to the provisions of these articles of incorporation and by-laws, the representative governing bodies shall administer the business of this corporation.

## **VI. Conduct of Business**

This church shall have power in its corporate name to buy, own, hold in trust, use, inherit, lease, rent, sell, exchange or dispose of such real and personal property as may be useful and necessary for the furtherance of the Lord's work. It shall also have power to mortgage or encumber all or any part of this church's property, and to borrow or raise money or other assets of any kind, for the furtherance of the Lord's work.

All church property, real and personal, shall be held and all debts shall be contracted by the Trustees in the name of the corporation. Private property of the church members and officers of the corporation shall not be subjected to payment of the corporate debts or liabilities.

## **VII. Business Meetings**

The annual business meeting of this church shall be held by November 15 at a time and place designated by the church leadership. Additional regular or special business meetings may be called by the church leadership, or by petition of 10% or more of the active members of the church. A quorum for a regular business meeting is 10% of active members. A quorum can be established by members in attendance both in person or remotely and the votes received before the meeting. Notice of all regular business meetings shall be given at least four weeks before the meeting. Notice for any special meetings shall be given at least one week before the meeting.

Meetings may be held by means of remote communication or in conjunction with a live meeting. When using remote communication all participating members must be able to simultaneously hear each other during the meeting. Each participating member is deemed to be present in person at the meeting.

## **VIII. Voting**

Voting at member meetings may be held by means of remote communication, if the members have the opportunity to read or hear the proceedings substantially concurrently with their occurrence, vote on matters submitted to the members, pose questions, and make comments. Items requiring membership vote shall be mailed electronically and/or via USPS to all adult members having a right to vote at least four weeks prior to the remote meeting (except in emergency/critical situations). Members shall be provided with email addresses and/or phone numbers to submit questions. All questions received within the first two weeks of mailing shall be answered and sent to all members having a right to vote one week before the remote meeting.

Remote voting shall be considered valid either by return mail or email prior to the remote meeting or by polling during the remote meeting.

## **IX. Dissolution**

In the event of a dissolution of the corporation, any assets of the corporation remaining after satisfaction of its debts and liabilities, shall be given or transferred to an organization, or organizations as shall be decided by the members of the corporation at the time of winding-up or dissolution, provided that any such organization shall be a not-for-profit charitable organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as such, and which has the preeminent goal of propagating the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as set forth in the Bible.

Such a meeting shall be announced four consecutive Sundays before it is held. A quorum of 50% of the active members must attend the meeting of dissolution. At least two-thirds of the members present must vote for dissolution.

## **X. Revisions**

Revisions may be proposed by the Personnel Board, or by written petition of 10% or more of active members of the church. Written notice of the proposed revision must be distributed at least four weeks before the vote is taken. These articles may be revised at any business meeting of the church by a two-thirds majority of votes cast by a quorum of 20% of active members.

## **XI. Provision for by-laws**

By-laws not in conflict with these articles may be adopted.