THE CONSTITUTION OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF LAWRENCE, KANSAS

I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

The name of the organization shall be First Christian Church of Lawrence, Kansas (hereinafter referred to as "First Christian Church", "FCC", or the "Church"). Said organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations described under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

II. MISSION STATEMENT

First Christian Church exists to fulfill God's purposes for His Church. We are called to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the world (evangelism); to make disciples who know Jesus, learn his word, obey him, and love and care for one another (nurture); to praise, honor, and express our love for God individually and corporately (worship); and to serve our fellow congregants, our community, and the world (service).

In order to fulfill its mission, First Christian Church may ordain and/or license as clergy, various ministers (pastors, staff pastors, evangelists, missionaries, professors and teachers, and other ministerial staff) for the work of Christian ministry.[1]

Since education is an integral function of its mission, First Christian Church may operate educational ministries or institutions, including Christian pre-schools and day care centers, primary or secondary schools, undergraduate and graduate schools, ministry training schools, and seminaries.[2]

New churches that are planted by First Christian Church may be established as subsidiary congregations under the governing umbrella of this constitution until such time as is deemed appropriate for the new congregation to incorporate as an autonomous church body.

III. STATEMENT OF FAITH

First Christian Church's local congregation respects the right of each person to determine what he or she believes. Yet, First Christian Church holds that the following statement is a summary of essential truths of Christian faith and represents our shared understanding of what our Church will affirm as true:

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[1] Any and all definitions, agreements, contracts, job descriptions, limitations or terms of said individuals are contained in separate documents concerning those individuals. This Constitution shall not be interpreted to establish any such roles or provisions, except as provided in any separate document.

[2] Any and all definitions, agreements, contracts, descriptions, limitations or terms of said entities or educational services are contained in separate documents concerning those entities and services. This Constitution shall not be read to establish any specific entity or institution, except as provided in any separate document.

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We believe that God, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe, eternally exists in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
We believe that the Bible is God's written word, through which he continues to speak to us and reveal himself; that it is truthful in all that it teaches, and is uniquely and divinely authoritative for determining what we believe and how we are to live.

We believe that God fully and perfectly revealed himself through Jesus of Nazareth, the unique Son of God and Messiah, who is fully divine and fully human, God incarnate; that Jesus was born to a virgin, lived a sinless life, performed miracles during his ministry, and suffered and died on the cross for our sins, making it possible for all who repent from their sins and place their faith in him to be made right with God and given eternal life; and that God raised him from the dead and exalted him to the place of highest glory and majesty.

We believe that the Holy Spirit dwells within each believer, enabling us to live godly lives and to fulfill God's purposes for his creation.

We believe that Jesus will come again to rule over the nations, that his kingdom will have no end; and that he will be the final judge of all. We believe that all who belong to Christ will live forever in his kingdom.

We believe that the Church consists of all those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ and confess him as Lord, with whom we are spiritually united as part of Christ's body. Our local congregation recognizes Jesus Christ as the governing Head of our church, and our pastors and elders as his shepherds who guide the spiritual life of our church.

IV. MEMBERSHIP

Membership in First Christian Church 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 corporate bylaws are the primary document by which First Christian Church is governed, operated, and managed (the "Bylaws"). The Bylaws are hereby incorporated as though fully stated herein. Subject to the provisions of this document and the Bylaws, the representative governing bodies shall administer the business of First Christian Church. The government of the Church is vested in its membership, which shall elect Elders and Trustees, as those terms are defined in the Bylaws or other separate documents.

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VI. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

First Christian Church shall have the full power and authority to take any and all actions authorized by statute under a corporation of the State of Kansas in conducting its business, but such authority shall otherwise bind the Church to regulations or laws that it is otherwise exempt from, by virtue of being a religious organization. The 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, as determined by the Elders, Trustees, and Personnel Board. The Church 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, as determined by the Church boards and approved by the Elders. The Church shall have authority to open bank accounts, obtain insurance, and generally take all other action necessary to carry out its business, in the discretion of the Church boards and approved by the Elders.

All Church property, real and personal, shall be held by the Trustees in the name of the Church. All Church debts shall be held by the Trustees in the name of the Church. Private property belonging to Church members and officers shall not be subjected to payment of corporate debts or liabilities and shall not be mingled with corporate funds or property. No employee in his or her own name, or member of the church, shall be compelled to sign on any debt or obligation of the Church.

VII. BUSINESS MEETINGS

The annual business meeting of the Church shall be held on or around November 15 of each year, at a time and place designated by the Church leadership. In the absence of other direction, the Senior/Lead Pastor shall have the authority to name the specific time and place of the annual meeting. Additional regular or special business meetings may be called by the Church leadership, including the Senior/Lead Pastor; boards upon a majority vote of board members; a majority of the Trustees, or by petition of ten-percent (10%) or more of the active members of the Church, as that term is defined by the Church Bylaws.

A quorum for a regular business meeting is ten-percent (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 (4) weeks before the meeting. Notice for any special meetings shall be given at least one (1) week before the meeting.

Meetings may be held by means of remote communication or in conjunction with a live meeting. Each participating member is deemed to be present in person at the meeting, with

AR H.S. SJ
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remote login constituting participation. Church members are responsible for ensuring that they are able to access remote meetings and have the technology to do so. The Church shall not be responsible for providing members with devices for accessing remote meetings or ensuring that members have the ability or knowledge to access a meeting remotely.

VIII. VOTING

Voting at meetings may be held by means of remote communication, if the members have the opportunity to read or hear the proceedings substantially concurrent with their occurrence; vote on matters submitted to the members; pose questions; and make comments. A description of items or issues requiring a vote of the members shall be mailed electronically and/or via USPS to all adult members having a right to vote at least four (4) weeks prior to the remote meeting (except in emergency/critical situations, as determined by Church leadership). Members shall be provided with email addresses and/or phone numbers to submit questions. All questions received within the first two (2) weeks of mailing shall be answered and sent to all members having a right to vote one (1) 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. As used here, the "right to vote" shall apply to active members, as that term is defined by the Bylaws.

IX. DISSOLUTION

In the event of a dissolution of First Christian Church, any assets remaining after satisfaction of its debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to one or more organizations which have the preeminent goal of propagating the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as set forth in the Bible, and which are recognized as a not-for-profit charitable organization exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; said assets to be used for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The elders and/or trustees will recommend to the congregation how and to which organizations the assets are distributed; final approval of the decision will rest with the congregation.

A meeting at which dissolution is to be voted upon shall be announced four (4) consecutive Sundays before it is held. A quorum of fifty-percent (50%) of the active members must attend the meeting of dissolution. At least two-thirds of the members present must vote for dissolution. If and when dissolution is voted for, the Elders, Trustees, and boards shall be empowered to take any and all necessary steps to effectuate the dissolution of the Church.

X. REVISIONS

Revisions to the Constitution may be proposed by the Elders, Trustees, Personnel Board, or by written petition of ten percent (10%) or more of active members of the Church. Written

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notice of the proposed revision must be distributed at least four (4) weeks before the vote is taken. These articles may be revised at any business meeting of the church by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of votes cast by a quorum of twenty-percent (20%) of active members.

XI. PROVISION FOR BYLAWS

Bylaws may be adopted by the Church. To the extent this constitution and Bylaws are in conflict, the Constitution shall take priority until the Bylaws are amended.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Constitution has been signed, as of the day and year identified below.

Date signed: 5/25, 2025

Sarah Johnson
Elder Board Chair

Hugh Rundell
Trustee Board Chair

Hyacinth Self
Personnel Board Chair

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