

BYLAWS
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, INCORPORATED
GRIFFITH, INDIANA

Located at 705 N. Harvey Street
Office Located at 202 W. Pine Street

ARTICLE I

The name of this organization shall be First Christian Church, Incorporated, of Griffith Indiana, D.B.A. First Christian Church. This church is locally autonomous and is not governed by any ecclesiastical organization.

ARTICLE II

First Christian Church, Inc. of Griffith, Indiana, is a religious association, organized under the laws of the State of Indiana for church purposes and not for pecuniary profit.

Its purposes are to maintain the worship of God; the preaching and teaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; the observance of the ordinances of the church as taught in the New Testament; to promote Christian unity, to create and maintain a benevolent and missionary spirit; to receive and administer funds for these objectives; and to engage in acts of Christian service as determined by the congregation under the oversight of the elders.

The New Testament will be recognized as our rule of faith and practice.

ARTICLE III

Section 1: Definition: Membership in this church shall be by public confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and by being, or having been, baptized by immersion as a believer. Persons who have been previously baptized by immersion, as believers, may be accepted into membership by so stating, confessing their faith in Jesus Christ, and requesting membership.

Section 2: Rights of Active Members: Each active member of the church organization will be entitled to all the rights and privileges of this church. Each active member who is eighteen (18) years of age or older shall have one vote at all meetings of the membership as herein provided.

Section 3: Meetings: Congregational meetings shall be conducted according to the Manual of Operations. Matters other than changes in the Bylaws shall be decided by simple majority.

Section 4: Quorum: The active members present at any given meeting shall be considered a quorum.

Section 5: Proxies and Absentees: Under no circumstances will proxies be authorized to vote on another's behalf in any meeting. Qualified members may vote in person, or by absentee ballot if unable to attend the meeting.

Section 6: Requirements: A membership class must be completed, to become a member.

ARTICLE IV ELECTIONS

Section 1: Nomination Committee: The congregation will appoint nominations, and the elders approve for final nomination.

Section 2: Election of Elders: The elders shall be elected for a three (3) year term, in accordance with the Manual of Operations. Proposed one year sabbatical after two (2) consecutively served three (3) year terms.

Section 3: Election of Deacons: Deacons shall be elected for a three (3) year term, in accordance with the Manual of Operations.

Section 4: Election of Trustees: Trustees shall be elected for a three (3) year term, in accordance with the Manual of Operations.

Section 5: Vacancies in Elected Offices: Any office which becomes vacant during a term may be filled by appointment by the elders. Appointee will hold office until next election, not the end of the term. Officers newly elected shall begin their duties as directed by the elders.

ARTICLE V. ELDERS

Section 1: Duties and Powers: The elders are to serve as shepherds of the church, overseeing its ministry. The elders shall be the only governing body with authority over the church and shall have responsibility for every aspect of the church program. Elders will appoint to vacant offices. Appointee will hold office until next election, not the end of the term.

Section 2: Meetings: The elders shall meet together as they deem necessary. A majority of the total number of elders currently holding office shall constitute a quorum. All matters not decided by consensus shall be determined by majority vote.

Section 3: In The Absence of Elders: At times, there may be no men who meet the qualifications of Scripture or who desire to serve as elders. In such instances, former elders who are able to serve will form an advisory board to the Senior Minister and any ministerial staff serving at the time. This board of former elders will not have any of the powers given by these by-laws to those actively serving in the office of elder, but the advisory board of former elders will only serve as advisers to the ministerial staff of Griffith First Christian Church.

ARTICLE VI. DEACONS

Section 1: Duties: Deacons shall each be elected by the congregation to serve as Chair of a ministry of the church, under the authority and direction of the elders, except to fill a vacancy that occurs in the office. In such instance Article IV, Section 5 shall apply.

ARTICLE VII. TRUSTEES

Section 1: Duties: The trustees shall be the legal representatives of the church, and shall perform such duties as required under the laws of the State of Indiana. They shall attend their signatures to such necessary documents as determined and directed by the elders.

**ARTICLE VIII.
MINISTERIAL STAFF**

Section 1: Duties: The ministers of the church shall perform their duties as outlined in their respective job descriptions.

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Section 2: Selection of Ministerial Staff: Shall be done in accordance with the Manual of Operations.

Section 3: Resignation or Removal: In the event any member of the ministerial staff desires to resign, he shall give a minimum of thirty (30) days written notice of intention to terminate his tenure. The elders may terminate the services of any member of the ministerial staff by providing a minimum of sixty (60) days written notice to that staff member.

Termination of employment can be done with either less or more than that amount of time upon mutual agreement between the elders and that staff member.

**ARTICLE IX
CHURCH FINANCES**

Section 1: Disbursement of Budgeted Funds: Shall be done in accordance with the Manual of Operations, and in compliance with governmental rules regulating 501 (c) (3) organizations.

Section 2: Budget Restrictions: No Ministry, organization or individual other than the elders shall have the authority to make up any financial commitments exceeding the amount in any category of an approved budget. Any financial request beyond the limits of any ministry's budget must be submitted to the elders for approval prior to any commitment being made.

**ARTICLE X
CHURCH BUILDING**

Section 1: Use of the church building: All buildings and property of First Christian Church shall be used for the purposes set forth in the church's Mission Statement, and in accordance with the current Manual of Operations.

**ARTICLE XI
NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION PROVISIONS**

Section 1: Not for Profit Provisions: No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the Articles of Incorporation. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on the propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501 (c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Law or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170 (c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Revenue Law.

Section 2: Dissolution Provisions: Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the trustees shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all assets of the corporation exclusively for the purpose of the corporation in such manner, or to the Chicago District Evangelizing Association, or to such organizations organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes according to the New Testament plan to which we adhere, as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501 (c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or to corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the trustees shall be directed by the elders of church. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principle office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for which purpose or to such organization or organizations as said court shall determine, which are organized and operating exclusively for such purpose.

ARTICLE XII AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended or revised by a two-thirds majority vote at a duly called and advertised congregational meeting, having first submitted the amendment or change to the elders for passage by two-thirds majority, and then making available to the members of the congregation a copy of the proposed change or amendment at least ten (10) days prior to the duly called meeting.

Bylaws rewritten, 1966

Passed by congregational vote, September 24, 1966

Bylaws amended:

June 12, 1969
November 23, 1969
June 3, 1970
December 6, 1972
June 13, 1973
December 4, 1974
June 2, 1976
June 7, 1978
September 20, 1981
June 6, 1990
March 6, 1994
January 25, 1998
May 6, 2011

Bylaws rewritten: 2004