

CENTER CHRISTIAN CHURCH CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1 -- NAME

The name of this congregation shall be the Center Christian Church.

ARTICLE II -- OBJECTS

We, as members of the Body of Christ in the Cherokee County, Kansas area, do bind ourselves together as a congregation to establish and to maintain a New Testament Church in Lyon Township, Cherokee County, Kansas, for religious worship, instruction, and missionary work according to the teachings of the New Testament of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; to acknowledge the Deity and absolute final authority of Christ; and to the inspiration of the Holy Scripture, both the Old Testament and the New Testament.

ARTICLE III -- POLICIES

Section 1. This congregation shall neither be a part of the United Christian Missionary Society of Indianapolis, Indiana, nor of the Kansas Christian Missionary Society, nor of any other alliance. It shall be independent of all outside authority, fully and completely autonomous; at no time shall said congregation be taken over by any outside authority or organization. It is the intention of the members that this church shall be free and independent, subject only to the New Testament.

Section 2. No part of the net earnings of this organization shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization 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 Article II of this Constitution. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization 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, this organization shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes of this organization.

Section 3. Upon dissolution of the organization, the elders shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the organization, dispose of all the assets of the organization in such manner or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for the same purposes for which this organization was founded as stated in Article II, per the Revenue Sea that time

Section 4. Special speakers must have the approval of the elders before speaking before the congregation.

Section 5. Voting for amendments to these constitution and by-laws, for policies, or for officers, or minister shall be done by written ballot.

Section 6. Any vote coming before the congregation for their consideration should pass by a two-thirds (2/3) majority.

ARTICLE IV -- CHURCH BOARD OFFICIALS

Section 1. The following shall be the only voting members of the Board and Executive Board of this congregation; Elders, Deacons, and Trustees.

Section 2a. All Elders shall be spiritually qualified according to scripture. On the basis of the scriptures and this constitution, the administration of authority in the church is given by the Holy Spirit to the Elders who are to administer God's authority and be responsible for His will being put into practice. The Board of Elders, therefore, shall have the authority to interpret this Constitution and By-laws and implement actions consistent with it. If the Elders feel that an action taken by the Board is not in compliance with the scripture and this constitution, the vote can be overridden by a three-fourths (3/4) majority of all sitting Elders.

Section 2b. The responsibilities of the Elders shall be: a. feed the flock (I Tim. 3:2; 5:17; 1 Thess. 5:12; Titus 1:9), b. provide leadership to the flock (Acts 20:28; I Thess. 5:12; Heb. 13:17), in practical matters (Acts 6:1-6; 11:29-30), in matters of doctrine (Acts 15; 16:4), and in matters of discipline and character (Heb. 13:17); c. lovingly care for the flock (James 5:14-15; Acts 20:35; Heb. 13:17); and, d. protect the flock (1 Pet. 5:2-3; Acts 20:28).

Section 3. All Deacons shall be spiritually qualified according to scripture and shall have the responsibility of assisting the Elders as described in the New Testament.

Section 4. The Trustees shall have general supervision of the church property and see that it is kept in order. They shall not have power to construct any new improvements without the approval of the members. They shall be responsible for the hiring of any employees needed for the maintenance of this property.

Section 5. Every year following the elections there will be a training session for all board members. Each member of the Board is encouraged to attend. The session will be led by a qualified instructor outside of this congregation. The arrangements will be made prior to the Elections by the Chairman of the Elders. Any interested party is invited to attend.

ARTICLE V -- ANNUAL MEETING

The annual congregational meeting shall be held the second Wednesday night of each January. Public notice of each annual meeting shall be made by the Chairman of the Board two (2) weeks before the date of the meeting.

ARTICLE VI -- ELECTIONS

Section 1. All elections shall be held at the annual congregational meeting. New officers shall assume their office at the first meeting of the Board following the election.

Section 2. Voting members shall include any person fifteen (15) years of age or over, who is an active member of the Center congregation.

Section 3. The voting members present constitutes a quorum.

Section 4. Where there is more than one (1) candidate for office, other than elder, deacon, or trustee, the candidate receiving the highest number of ballots shall be declared elected. In the case of elders, deacons, and trustees all nominees receiving approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast will be considered elected.

Section 5. The following offices shall be filled by election: trustees, elders, and deacons. The term of each shall be three (3) years, with approximately one-third (1/3) to be elected each year. The treasurer, clerk, music director, and church hostess shall be elected annually for a one (1) year term.

Section 6. At the annual election, the chairman of the board shall preside. In his absence, the vice-chairman of the board shall preside. The presiding officer shall appoint three (3) tabulators.

ARTICLE VII -- NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Section 1. The chairman of the elders will name three (3) elders, preferably those whose term does not expire, to serve on the nominating committee.

Section 2. The chairman of the deacons will in like manner, name two (2) deacons, preferably those whose term does not expire to serve on the nominating committee.

Section 3. The names of the members of the nominating committee will be announced immediately thereafter and posted on the bulletin board six (6) weeks before the Annual Meeting and remain posted through the day of the election.

Section 4. Should any member of the congregation desire to nominate someone whom the nominating committee did not name, he or she may do so by submitting the name to the nominating committee in writing, not later than two (2) weeks before the election.

Section 5. At least one (1) week before the election, the names of all persons nominated shall be posted on the bulletin board so that the nomination of each person named may have the full consideration of the church members. No names will be considered for election which have not been posted on the bulletin board.

ARTICLE VIII -- MEETINGS

Section 1. The board members shall meet once a month and at any other time when called either by the chairman of the board or by any two (2) elders.

Section 2. A special called meeting of the congregation for business may be called by the board or by written petition signed by voting members equal in number to twenty percent (20%) of the average Sunday morning attendance during the previous six (6) months.

Section 3. Should an Elder, Deacon, or Trustee absent himself from all regularly scheduled meetings of the church Board for three (3) consecutive months without acceptable reason, such as illness or work, he will automatically forfeit his position as Elder, Deacon, or Trustee. Further, should an Elder, Deacon, or Trustee absent himself from regularly scheduled services of the church for a period of one month without acceptable reason, such as illness or absence from the community, he will automatically forfeit his position as Elder, Deacon, or Trustee. And further, should an Elder, Deacon, or Trustee be absent from the community for a period of six (6) months or more, he may submit to the Board for approval a request for leave of absence for a period of time not to exceed the time remaining in his term. In his absence of such a request, he will automatically forfeit his position as Elder, Deacon, or Trustee as per the preceding paragraphs.

ARTICLE IX -- ABSENTEE VOTING

Absentee ballots shall be provided on application in person for those who will not be able to attend the election; and all such ballots, if cast, shall be in the hands of election officials at the time of balloting.

ARTICLE X -- FILLING VACANCIES

In the event of vacancies of any elected officer, the church board may, if necessary, select a successor to serve in the vacant office until the next regular election.

ARTICLE XI -- MINISTER

The minister of this congregation shall be elected by two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members of this congregation, subject to his qualifications being approved by the elders. A written agreement will be provided between the minister and the board. In case of severance of that agreement, each party shall give the other thirty (30) days notice.

ARTICLE XII -- AMENDMENTS

Any additions, amendments, or changes to these Constitution and By-laws shall be presented to the elders for their consideration. It shall then be congregation on at least two (2) successive Sundays before acted upon at a regular or called congregational meeting. Such additions, amendments, or changes may be enacted by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members present at such meeting.

ARTICLE XIII -- LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Section 1. The officers shall be empowered to meet any legal requirement of the federal, state, or local government.

Section 2. "Robert's Rules of Order, Revised" shall govern this congregation in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not in conflict with these Constitution and By-Laws or with the Law of God.

Changes Made

Amendment II (Adopted July 25, 1982) was put in Article III -- Policies as Section 2.

Amendment III (Adopted July 25, 1982) was put in Article III -- Policies as Section 3.

Section 4 of Article III was Section 2 of Article III in original Constitution and By-laws (Adopted April 3, 1978).

Section 5 of Article III was Section 3 of Article III in original Constitution and By-laws (Adopted April 3, 1978).

Title of Article IV was changed to Church Board Officials.

In Article IV, Sections 1, 2a, 2b, 3, & 5 have been added.

In Article IV, Section 4 is the original description of Article IV in the Constitution and By-laws (Adopted April 3, 1978)

Article V is the Amendment that was voted for during the December 1997 annual meeting.

Article VI, Section 4, Trustees was added to the list of offices.

Amendment I, (Adopted December 8, 1980) is included in Section 3 of Article VII

Section 3 of Article VIII was an amendment added (date). Trustees have been added to that amendment.