



Constitution & Bylaws

(Revised 2019)

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Article I - Name & Location

SECTION 1.1 – Name

The name of this church shall be Cornerstone Christian Church.

SECTION 1.2 – Location

The location of Cornerstone Christian Church is found in the body of believers mainly throughout central DuPage county area who currently meet for worship at 312 Geneva Rd. Glen Ellyn, IL. The officers of the Church shall have full power and authority to change the principal meeting location. The Secretary of the church shall update all publications and corporate documents as to any duly authorized change of location.

Article II - Purpose

SECTION 2.1 - Purpose

Cornerstone Christian Church exists to build lives upon the foundation of God's Word and the person of Jesus Christ. The purpose of Cornerstone Christian Church is to fulfill the great commission of Jesus Christ to make disciples. Our mission is to make disciples.

SECTION 2.2 - Intent

Cornerstone Christian Church is a not for profit organization which exists exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes. Cornerstone Christian Church does not exist to promote or influence any political activities.

Article III - Beliefs

SECTION 3.1 - Historical Basis for Beliefs

This congregation shall be under the ordinances of the New Testament in the historic tradition of the non-denominational independent Christian Church/Church of Christ (also known as the "Stone-Campbell Movement" or the "Restoration Movement"). This church's practice shall be for the edifying of the body of Christ that all things might be done decently and in order. The congregation will be a church, which is known among religious bodies as an autonomous nondenominational Christian Church. The congregation of this church shall have no creed but Christ; no book of doctrine but that of the Bible, members are known as Christians only but not the only Christians. They are committed in becoming and restoring Christ's church as described in the New Testament of the Bible. The Biblical ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper shall be observed, the former by immersion only, and the latter weekly. The congregation is autonomous and not governed by any organization other than the leaders described in this document.

SECTION 3.2 - Statement of Belief

3.2.1 - God - There is one God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Creator and Lord of all things. (Genesis 1:1-2, John 1:1, Matthew 3:16-17)

3.2.2 - Jesus - Jesus Christ is the one and only Son of God, who died for our sins and arose from the dead. (1 Corinthians 15:1-8 & John 3:16)

3.2.3 - Bible - The Bible is the true and inspired Word of God. It is our guide as it tells God's story with humanity. (2 Timothy 3:16 & Psalm 119:105)

3.2.4 - Man - Every person has worth as a creation of God. Humanity willfully rebelled against God and all have sinned and fall short of God's standard. (Romans 3:23, Romans 5:12-15)

3.2.5 - Eternal Life - Forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life are available to those who trust Christ as Savior and Lord. (John 3:16, Romans 6:22-23)

3.2.6 - Salvation - Those accepting Christ should repent of sin, confess their faith, and be baptized by immersion into Him. (Colossians 2:6, Romans 10:9, Acts 2:38)

3.2.7 - Church - The Church began on the day of Pentecost as the body of Christ on earth, empowered by the Holy Spirit and exists to show the way back to God. (Ephesians 4:1-16, Acts 2:41-42)

3.2.8 - Future - Jesus Christ will one day return to earth and reign forever as King of kings and Lord of lords. Until that happens, our job is to make the future a reality as we bring heaven to earth. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Timothy 6:13-16, 2 Corinthians 4:14)

SECTION 3.3 - Governing Principles

The board is responsible for defining governing principles for how Cornerstone will live out the mission of making disciples. The following principles will be reviewed annually by the board:

3.3.1 - Truth - Our primary source of truth and how to function as a church comes from God's Word. The Bible is our final arbiter for guidance, disagreements, and carrying out our mission. This is similar to the prophetic voice of calling all people to God's truth. The call of God's truth includes both the proclamation of salvation, or justification, as well as the exhortation of discipleship, or sanctification.

3.3.2 - Love/Grace - Love and grace are similar concepts, and also core aspects to how we function as a church. The desire for others to know God's truth is connected to the concept of love for them, so that they might know the grace of God. Love and grace are care for others through acts of compassion toward them. We consider this the pastoral voice, as care is extended to those both inside and outside the church community.

3.3.3 - Excellence - Because of the importance of the work being done to make disciples, we are called to excellence. This is the voice of the priestly role as we take seriously the holiness of God. We are God's ambassadors or representatives in this world, and therefore are called to live out the truth and love of God with excellence.

3.3.4 - Worship/Prayer - This is the voice of the worshipper or supplicant, as we approach the holy God with respect and awe. The mission of making disciples comes from God and is sustained

by our relationship with Him through worship and prayer. This includes both corporate worship on Sunday mornings, as well as our entire lives being an act of worship and faith.

3.3.5 - Service - This is the role of servant, as making disciples is an act of service to God and others. The focus of our mission is not only on ourselves or even our own body of believers, but is instead seen as working outward for the sake of others. Just as Christ died for all as the ultimate act of service, we give our our time, resources, and whole lives to serving God's work in this world.

Article IV - Organization

SECTION 4.1 - Organizational Structure

The structure of this church recognizes that the person of Jesus Christ is the true head of the Church and the Bible is the highest authority. In following the New Testament model of the Church, Cornerstone Christian Church is governed by godly leaders as the highest human authority. The board is accountable to the congregation and is made up of leaders who fulfill the highest qualities of leadership; the board is responsible for governing the church. The pastor is accountable to the board and is responsible for leading the church. The staff and ministry leaders are accountable to the lead pastor and are responsible for managing the ministry of the church. The congregation works under the leadership of the pastor and staff to serve and carry out the ministry of the church.

SECTION 4.2 - Positions of Leadership

4.2.1 - Board - The board is made up of godly men and women who are of the highest moral character. All board members should be able qualify for church leadership according to the precepts set forth in the books of 1 Timothy and Titus. The board has two primary responsibilities. First, they are governors of the church, meaning they set the parameters for what is and is not acceptable as a church. Their job is to define the governing principles, or a set of values that show how we live out the mission of making disciples. Second, the board holds the lead pastor accountable. The pastor prepares update reports and his work is overseen by the board. Each year, the board selects a chair.

4.2.2 - Lead Pastor - The lead pastor will meet with the board regularly and be part of all matters in front of the board, except for those relating to his compensation. The lead pastor serves as the moderator for all congregational meetings and is prohibited from serving as the chairman of the board. The lead pastor works to cast a vision for the church, lead the congregation to fulfill the mission of making disciples, and oversees the staff and ministry leaders to carry on the work of the church. The lead pastor will supervise all other pastoral staff which includes hiring, evaluating, and firing.

4.2.3 - Staff and Ministry Leaders - Both full-time and part-time staff members may be hired to fulfill the vision and ministry of Cornerstone Christian Church. These staff members may be ordained ("pastoral") or non-ordained ("non-pastoral") staff depending upon the role. All staff members report directly to the lead pastor. Ministry leaders are non-staff positions of leadership, fulfill a similar role of deacon. The ministry leaders are volunteers who serve and are in charge of a specific ministry team at Cornerstone Christian Church. Ministry leaders may report to the lead pastor or another designated staff member or ministry leader.

SECTION 4.3 - Selection of Board Members

4.3.1 - Composition and Function - The board is made up of godly men and women who serve an important governing role at Cornerstone Christian Church. Governing involves overseeing the lead pastor and helping define governing principles, or how we live out the mission of making disciples. The board is composed of a minimum of four people, ideally five to six, and no more than seven. All board members serve a three year term, with a minimum of one year break between terms; board members may be asked to extend their term if a minimum of four board members is not available. The board typically meets four times a year.

4.3.2 - Qualifications - Board members must be church members in good standing, and able to fulfill the qualifications for church leadership as seen in the Bible. Board members must have been a church member at Cornerstone Christian Church for three years, involved and serving in a recognized church ministry, and complete the application process.

4.3.3 - Application Process - Potential board members must complete a written application, which includes three endorsements/references from a current church member, a current board member, and a current staff member (no duplicates). All applications must be submitted to the chairman of the board by the first Sunday in November. The chair will ensure that all applications are complete and ready for congregational review. The chair will make the list of applicants available to the congregation for review in December. The congregation will vote on board applicants at the annual January congregational meeting, with an 80% affirmation required for board membership. If the vote would result in more than seven board members, those receiving the highest vote totals will be installed to the board.

SECTION 4.4 - Corporate Officers

4.4.1 - Officers and Chair

The officers of this Corporation shall consist of a President, Secretary, and Treasurer, each of whom shall be selected by the church board. Such other officers, assistant officers, and agents as may be deemed necessary may be selected or appointed by the board. The chairman of the board will serve as chairman of the board of officers.

4.4.2 - President

The president of the corporation shall be the lead pastor and should be understood as the chief executive officer of this Corporation, shall have general and active management of the business affairs of the Corporation, shall be subject to the directions of the board.

4.4.2 - Secretary

The Secretary shall have custody of, and maintain all the corporation records except the financial records. Shall be responsible for recording the minutes of all meetings of the board, oversee the sending out of all notices of meetings, and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the board or the lead pastor.

4.4.3 - Treasurer

The Treasurer shall have custody of corporate funds and financial records. Shall keep full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursement and render accounts thereof, at the annual meeting of the members and whenever required by the board. The Treasurer shall also perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the board.

4.4.4 - Removal

Any officer or agent selected, appointed, or hired by the board may be removed whenever in their judgment the best interest of the Corporation would be served thereby.

SECTION 4.5 - Conflict Management and Dismissal

4.5.1 - Conflict

All levels of leadership at Cornerstone Christian Church are expected to treat others with respect and seek constructive solutions to conflicts. The process for dealing with conflict is found in Matthew 18:15-17.

4.5.2 - Dismissal of the Lead Pastor or Board/Board Members

Leaders of all levels, and especially lead pastor and board members, are expected to maintain Christian character and may be asked to resign if standards are not kept. It is understood that beyond issues of character, there may be conflicts with job performance, direction, and other issues that may cause disagreements or lead to the seeking of dismissal from a senior level position. For senior leadership, the following steps are to be taken:

1. Every effort should be made to resolve conflicts, job performance, or other issues. It is expected that Christian leaders should always seek a mutually agreed upon solution.
2. If conflict exists, the leaders are to follow the steps of Matthew 18:15-17.
3. In matters rise to the level of asking the lead pastor or board/board member to resign, the next step is to bring in an outside consultant from either Ignite Church Planting or Lincoln Christian University. Non-binding arbitration should be attempted first.
4. If a mutually agreed upon solution is not found, a second round of binding-arbitration is to be completed with a consultant from Ignite Church Planting or Lincoln Christian University. At this point, dismissal of a senior leader may occur.

Article V - Membership

SECTION 5.1 - Membership in the Body of Christ

We hold the Church to be the body of Christ, consisting of members who believe, repent, confess, are baptized, and live a life of discipleship in following Christ (I Cor. 12:12-13).

SECTION 5.2 - Membership in this Congregation

Membership in this congregation is open to all persons accepting Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the Living God, showing their obedience in Christian baptism by immersion and who commit themselves to fellowship in this congregation. A member at Cornerstone Christian Church is one who affirms the following:

- 5.2.1 - They believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and their Lord and Savior.
- 5.2.2 - They have repented and committed to change of allegiance to Christ in they lives.
- 5.2.3 - They confess by acknowledging their relationship with Christ by their actions and relationships.
- 5.2.4 - They have been baptized into Christ and have surrendered their will to God by being obedient in Christian baptism and immersed for the forgiveness of sins.

5.2.5 - They possess the indwelling Holy Spirit in their lives which is reflected by their lifestyle and character.

SECTION 5.3 - Membership Covenant

All members at Cornerstone Christian church are expected to do affirm and fulfill the following:

5.3.1 - Members will protect the unity of the church by acting in love toward other members, by refusing to gossip, and following the leadership of Cornerstone Christian Church

5.3.2 - Members will share the responsibility of the church by praying for its growth, by inviting the un-churched to attend, and by warmly welcoming newcomers.

5.3.3 - Members will serve the ministry of the church by discovering their gifts and talents, by being equipped to serve, and by developing a servant's heart.

5.3.4 - Members will support the testimony of their church by attending faithfully, by living a godly life, and by giving regularly.

SECTION 5.4 - Transfer of Membership

We also extend the hand of Christian fellowship to all persons previously baptized into Christ through immersion and confessing Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the Living God and who commit themselves to fellowship in this congregation..

SECTION 5.5 - Inactive Members

Those members who have formally placed membership at another congregation (transferred their membership) or those who have informed the leadership of their desire to be removed from the membership roles will be considered inactive members. Those members who do not show interest by their attendance for six months may be referred to the board for consideration of transfer to the inactive membership list. Inactive members do not have voting privileges.

SECTION 5.6 - Voting Privileges

Every eligible member who has attained the age of sixteen (16) years of age shall have the right to one ballot per individual.

SECTION 5.7 - Removal of Members

The board may remove members for violating any of the clauses of Section V of these bylaws.

SECTION 5.8 - Annual Members Meeting

An annual members meeting will be held in January of each year. The lead pastor will moderate the meeting and ensure that the time, date, and location are advertised in church publications at least two weeks before the meeting is to be held. This meeting will include a confirmation vote for the annual budget.

SECTION 5.9 - No Confidence Vote and Arbitration

A quorum of active members (defined as more than 50% the active membership in attendance) may call a special meeting and register a vote of no confidence on the lead pastor and/or entire board. If more than 50% of the vote is for "no confidence," the board will be required to hire a consultant from either Ignite Church Planting or Lincoln Christian University to evaluate the situation and offer non-binding arbitration and conflict management. If after the arbitration is completed and another no confidence vote is registered (on the same issue, team, or leaders), then the board will hire a consultant from Ignite Church Planting or Lincoln Christian University to enter binding arbitration.

Article VI - Finances

SECTION 6.1 - Conflict of Interest

A voting member of the board who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Cornerstone Christian Church for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation. Also, a voting member of any ministry team whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Cornerstone Christian Church for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.

SECTION 6.2 - Financial Practices and Goals

We have established the following financial policies and goals to guide us in proper stewardship of God's monetary riches: We will seek to elect and appoint leadership that is free from the love of money (1 Peter 5:2; 1 Timothy 3:3), and we will conform to acceptable accounting procedures to assure ethical monetary practices.

SECTION 6.3 - Accounts

The financial accounts shall be established through the budget annually by the board in conjunction with the Finance Ministry and maintained by the Church Treasurer.

SECTION 6.4 - Offerings and Donations

Regular offerings shall be taken at Sunday services and other special meetings as determined by the board. Undesignated offerings shall be applied to the general fund. All designated giving must be in full IRS compliance with the understanding that the leadership of Cornerstone Christian Church ultimately maintains how a donation is to be used or the donation may be returned.

Article VII - Dissolution

SECTION 7.1 - Dissolution

Upon dissolution of the corporation, the corporate officers, as governed by these bylaws, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the corporation, shall dispose of all the assets of the corporation to Ignite Church Planting, a recognized 501(c)3 organization, which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, or religious purposes.

In the event this organization no longer exists, or is at the time of dissolution of Cornerstone Christian Church is not recognized 501(c)3 organization, the remaining assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue code of 1954 (or corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue tax code), or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose, as the board shall determine.

Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Circuit Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes,

or to such organization of organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Article VIII - Amendments

SECTION 8.1 - Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by a vote of no less than 80% of the church board.