

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS Of

Mt. Zion Christian Church - Revised 2/16/2014

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

ARTICLE I - NAME

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

ARTICLE III - RELATIONSHIPS

ARTICLE IV - OBJECTIVES

ARTICLE V - CHURCH COVENANT

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP (page 6)

ARTICLE II - CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS (page 7)

ARTICLE III - ELDERS (page 9)

ARTICLE IV - DEACONS (page 11)

ARTICLE V - TRUSTEES (page 13)

ARTICLE VI - MINISTERS (page 14)

ARTICLE VII - CHURCH BOARD (page 17)

ARTICLE VIII - MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS (page 19)

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We declare and establish this constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith, and to govern the body in an orderly manner. This constitution shall preserve the Christian liberties of each individual church member and the freedom of action of this body in its relation to other New Testament believing churches.

ARTICLE I - NAME

This congregation shall be known as the Mt. Zion Christian Church of Winchester, Kentucky (“Church”), located at 3631 Combs Ferry Road, Winchester, Kentucky.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

As believers in Christ, we are associated to maintain public worship, private religious instruction, and promote the Kingdom of God according to the Holy Scriptures. To be Christ-like in our daily living by emphasizing total commitment of life personality and possessions to the lordship of Christ.

ARTICLE III - RELATIONSHIPS

Mt. Zion Christian Church will be conducted and known among religious bodies as a non-denominational Church of Christ or Christian Church, where members are known as Christians. This church will be independent of and beyond the control of another ecclesiastical body but recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and congregation which are common to independent Christian churches.

ARTICLE IV - OBJECTIVES

To be a dynamic spiritual organism empowered by the Holy Spirit to share Christ with as many people as possible in Mt. Zion Christian Church, the community and the world.

To be a worshipping fellowship, experiencing an awareness of God, recognizing His person and responding in obedience to His leadership.

To be a church that ministers unselfishly to persons in the community and world in the name of Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE V - CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of Mt. Zion Christian Church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expense of the Church, and the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all gossiping, back-biting and excessive anger; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

Mt Zion Christian Church

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 1.1 Membership shall be extended to anyone 16 years of age or older who makes a public confession that he/she believes in Jesus Christ as the only begotten Son of God, accepts Him as Savior, accepts the Bible as the rule of his faith and action, and is duly baptized by immersion into the name of the Lord Jesus who is of the Trinity; Father, Son and Holy Spirit for the remission of sin, and has received the right hand of fellowship by a Minister or Elder of Mt. Zion Christian Church.

Sec. 1.2 All members shall be considered active who support the Church by attendance and tithes or offerings in meetings of worship at least once a month for the previous six months. If in question, active membership will be determined by offering statements, secured in confidentiality, from the Church accountant or Trustees.

Sec. 1.3 It shall be the duty and spiritual obligation of every member to lead a faithful and consecrated Christian life, to seek spiritual nourishment through personal and corporate Bible study and prayer, and to join the family life of Mt. Zion Christian Church by faithful participation in congregational worship services as well as small group activities.

Sec. 1.4 It shall be the duty and spiritual obligation of every member to contribute toward the support of Mt. Zion Christian Church with time, talent and finances as God has prospered them.

ARTICLE II - CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Sec. 2.1 For all matters of business, the word “Church” as found within this document shall mean the congregation of active members of Mt. Zion Christian Church.

Sec. 2.2 There shall be held each year during the fourth quarter, following a regular Sunday service, a general meeting of the active members of the Church. This meeting shall be known as the Annual Congregational Meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to hear yearly reports from the committees of the Church and to approve the annual budget. Additionally, candidates for Deacon, Elder, Trustee, and Church Board will be presented to the Church for consideration and approval. The Church may also transact such other business as may legally come before it.

Sec. 2.3 The date of the Annual Congregational Meeting shall be announced from the pulpit at the worship service and published in the weekly bulletin for at least two Sundays prior to the meeting.

Sec. 2.4 It is hereby provided that any number of active members of the Church present at the Annual Congregational Meeting shall be considered a quorum.

Sec. 2.5 A Special Meeting of the Church, for the transaction of urgent or unusual business may be called by the Senior Minister, Chairman of the Church Board, a majority of the Elders, or any active member of the Church with a request signed by at least 40 percent of the active members of the Church. The exact date and purpose of the Special Meeting shall be published in the weekly Church bulletin and announced

from the pulpit at the worship service at least one Sunday before the Special Meeting. At a Special Meeting, no other business may be considered aside from that stated in the call. All business transacted at a Special Meeting shall be binding and have the same force as if transacted at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Sec. 2.6 All Congregational Meetings shall be presided over by the Chairman of the Church Board. In the Chairman's absence, the Vice Chairman of the Board or Chairman of the Elders will preside. In the absence of all three, a presiding officer shall be elected by a majority vote of the Church Board members present.

Mt Zion Christian Church

ARTICLE III - ELDERS

Sec. 3.1 Hereafter the entire number of active Elders shall be collectively called Elders.

Sec. 3.2 The total number of active Elders shall be three. Only those who qualify under the guidelines of I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1: 5-9, who have attained the age of 60, have been an active member for five years, and who have demonstrated experience at Mt. Zion Christian Church leading bible studies, shall be considered. Their length of service shall be three-year rotating terms with a one-year minimum in absentia between terms.

Sec. 3.3 Elders are to be the visual and spiritual guiding force within the Church. They should attend to the daily spiritual needs of its members through the overseeing of Church services, Sunday school, visitation, and personally shepherding the Church members.

Sec. 3.4 A candidate for Elder must be made known and received by the Elders at least one week prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting. He must satisfy the requirements established in Sec. 3.2 and be recommended to the Senior Minister by a majority vote of the Elders.

Sec. 3.5 New Elder candidates shall be presented by the Senior Minister, having secured his appointment, for approval by the Church at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Sec. 3.6 Newly elected Elders shall be ordained at a Church service during the first quarter of the new calendar year.

Sec. 3.7 The Elders shall meet on a periodic basis in order to conduct necessary business, and shall hold elections on an annual basis to fulfill official duties for Chairman and Secretary. The Secretary shall publish official minutes of their meetings for Elder and Church Board review.

Sec. 3.8 In the event of an absence of Elders, a sister (Independent Christian) church may be called upon by the Senior Minister of Mt. Zion Christian Church to help until such time that new Elders from within the membership of the Church are obtained.

Mt Zion Christian Church

ARTICLE IV - DEACONS

Sec. 4.1 Hereafter the entire number of active Deacons shall be collectively called Deacons.

Sec. 4.2 The total number of Deacons shall be determined by those heeding the call of service and who qualify under the guidelines of I Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:3. Their length of service shall be three-year rotating terms with a one-year minimum in absentia between terms.

Sec. 4.3 It shall be the duty of the Deacons to engage in carrying out the work of the Church. This shall include but not be limited to greeting those entering the Church, serving as ushers, serving communion, teaching Sunday school classes, visiting the sick and shut-ins, directing traffic, policing the grounds, and assisting the Elders in carrying out other duties that are deemed necessary.

Sec. 4.4 A candidate for Deacon must make known his desire to the Elders. This request must be in writing and received at least one week prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting. He must satisfy the requirements established in Sec. 4.2 and be recommended by a majority vote of the Elders and the Church Board.

Sec. 4.5 Candidates for Deacon shall be presented and elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting by a two-thirds or more secret ballot vote of the active members of the Church present at that meeting.

Sec. 4.6 The newly elected Deacons shall be ordained at a Church service during the first quarter of the new calendar year following their election as a Deacon.

Sec. 4.7 The Deacons shall meet on a periodic basis to carry out such business as necessary, and shall elect a Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary annually to fulfill official duties. The Secretary shall publish official minutes of their meetings for Church Board and Elder review.

Mt Zion Christian Church

ARTICLE V - TRUSTEES

Sec. 5.1 There shall be four nominees for Trustee presented to the Church and the two with the most votes will be elected.

Sec. 5.2 Any candidate for Trustee must be made known in writing to the Church Board at least one week prior to the Church Board meeting held before the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Sec. 5.3 The new Trustee/Trustees shall be elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting of the Church by a two-thirds majority secret ballot vote by the active members of the Church present at that meeting.

Sec. 5.4 In case of a vacancy, a Church Board member shall fill such vacancy until the next Annual Congregational Meeting.

Sec. 5.5 A candidate for Trustee must be a member in good standing of Mt. Zion Christian Church for at least three years. They must be active in the Church, and support Mt. Zion Christian Church with their tithes. Each Trustee will serve for four years on a two-year rotating basis. Trustees shall be responsible for signing any legal document pertaining to such financial transactions exceeding \$10,000, and will sign agreements on behalf of Mt. Zion Christian Church with authorization of the finance committee and Church Board.

ARTICLE VI - MINISTERS

Sec. 6.1 This shall include the Senior Minister, Associate Minister, Music Minister, Youth Minister, and Children's Director or any other minister positions that may be required.

Sec. 6.2 Each Minister or Director shall be a member of Mt. Zion Christian Church and must believe without reservation in the full and final inspiration of the Bible as the infallible Word of God and therefore the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice. They must believe unreservedly in the Deity and Supreme Authority of Christ, and must believe and accept the Mt. Zion Christian Church Articles of the Constitution and the By-Laws.

Sec. 6.3 It shall be the duty of each Minister and Director to have at heart the welfare of the Church in every respect. They shall conduct services on a regular basis, be charged to guide and promote the work of the Church, visit members and non-members, and minister especially to the sick and distressed. Each Minister may request the assistance and support of the Church and especially the Elders and Deacons.

Sec. 6.4 The salary of the Senior Minister shall be as agreed upon by the finance committee and approved by the Church Board. The salary of all other employees, including other ministerial positions, will be at the recommendation of the Senior Minister. The disclosure of any Minister's salary shall be at the discretion of that Minister only.

Sec. 6.5 The Senior Minister, being an Elder, shall be responsible to the other Elders and Church Board for the performance of the duties of his office and the character of his doctrinal teachings. All Mt. Zion

Christian Church staff, including other ministerial positions shall be responsible to the Senior Minister for the performance of the duties of their respective offices.

Sec. 6.6 In the event of a vacancy of the Senior Minister because of death, acceptance of a call, resignation, or termination of services, the Chairman of the Elders shall appoint a pulpit committee, comprised of an equal apportionment of Deacons, staff, and active Church members, to select a replacement. They shall be directed by the requirements outlined in Section 6.2 of the By-Laws. The Elders shall provide interim preaching until a new minister has filled the position of Senior Minister.

Sec. 6.7 The Senior Minister's services may be terminated following specific guidelines. If resignation is initiated on his part, he shall in writing, present his resignation to the Elders and Church Board. After a three-fourths vote of approval by both, it shall then be read to the Church. If the resignation is not voluntary, a two-thirds vote by the Elders is required to recommend his removal to the Church Board. After a three-fourths vote by the Church Board, they shall then recommend his removal to the Church. The Senior Minister may request a Church vote on this matter and that vote must be more than three-fourths unanimous for his involuntary dismissal. All recommendations for involuntary resignation to the Church, by either the Elders or Church Board shall be held to the *ne bis in idem* standard.

ARTICLE VII - CHURCH BOARD

Sec. 7.1 For all matters of business the term “Church Board” found within this document shall mean that group of members of Mt. Zion Christian Church, comprised of three men and three women, elected by the Church to conduct the transaction of business pertaining to the welfare of Mt. Zion Christian Church.

Sec. 7.2 All candidates for Church Board must present their qualifications in writing to the Church Board at least three weeks prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting. Multiple family members are precluded from service on the Church Board simultaneously. The Church Board will present their recommendations to the Church for approval at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Sec. 7.3 The Church Board shall meet on a periodic basis, not less than once a month, to transact business pertaining to the welfare of the Church.

Sec. 7.4 All Church Board, Annual Congregational Meetings and Special Meetings will be conducted following Robert’s Rules of Order.

Sec. 7.5 Absent a Church-approved Board, the Senior Minister shall appoint a temporary Church Board to fulfill the obligations remaining until the next Annual Congregational Meeting.

Sec. 7.6 The Church Board shall elect a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer from among its members.

Sec. 7.7 The Chairman, or Vice Chairman in his absence, shall preside at all Church Board meetings and Church Congregational Meetings.

Sec. 7.8 The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings and shall publish a monthly summary for Elder, Church Board, and Church review.

Mt Zion Christian Church

ARTICLE VIII – CONGREGATIONAL OVERSIGHT

Sec. 8.1 All revisions to the By-Laws shall be approved by the Church. The Mt. Zion Christian Church By-Laws, in their entirety, shall be reviewed annually by the Church Board and the Elders to ensure they conform to Church intent.

Sec. 8.2 It shall be understood that every action taken by any committee or organization shall be subject to the approval or revision by the Church Board.

Sec. 8.3 It shall be understood that any action taken by the Church Board or Elders may be subject to the approval or revision of the Church.