

# WENTZVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH BY-LAWS

(Adopted August 27, 2006 / Revised and approved by congregation June 24, 2012)

**Proposed By Elders July 7, 2019**

## PREAMBLE:

These by-laws will serve to guide and aid Wentzville Christian Church in managing the congregation's affairs with decency and order. We believe the Bible to be our sole rule of faith and practice. Therefore, these by-laws are never intended to take precedent over God's Word, the Bible.

Wentzville Christian Church is committed to the principles of God's Word and will promote the work of His Kingdom in our community and throughout the world.

We also recognize how the congregation may find it necessary to make certain changes to these by-laws. These changes will be made as recorded in these by-laws.

## Article I: Name

For business and legal purposes, the name of this congregation shall be Wentzville Christian Church. The church is recorded in Missouri as a nonprofit organization.

## Article II: Purpose

The purpose of Wentzville Christian Church is to connect people with God so they will become a Christian and lead a life where learning, serving, growing, praying, worshipping and loving each other brings honor to Him.

## Article III: Membership / Voting Privileges

**Section 1 - Becoming A Member Of Wentzville Christian Church:** A person is considered a member of this church when they meet the criteria as set forth in the New Testament. (1) Hear about Christ - Romans 10:17, Acts 16:32 (2) Believe in Jesus as God's Son - John 3:16, I Peter 3:18, Hebrews 11:6 (3) Repent of sin - Luke 13:3, Acts 2:38 (4) Confess Him as Lord - Matthew 10:32-33, Romans 10:9-10 (5) Baptized (immersed under water) into the name of Christ - Acts 2:38, Matthew 28:18-20, Romans 6:1-7, I Peter 3:18-22

**Section 2 - Transfer of Membership:** We also extend membership to anyone who has complied with the above qualifications at an earlier time in their life and confirm this to Wentzville Christian Church by a verbal statement.

**Section 3 - Voting Rights:** All members of Wentzville Christian Church, 18 years of age or older, have the privilege of voting at all congregational meetings.

## Article IV: Congregational Meetings

**Section 1 - Purpose:** Congregational meetings may be called by a majority of elders to communicate with the membership of Wentzville Christian Church or for any other purpose specified in these by-laws. Meetings may also be called by written request of the majority of members.

**Section 2 - Announcement Of Meetings:** At least a 10 day notice shall be given to members for any congregational meeting through an announcement from the pulpit, and any other means deemed necessary by the eldership. The announcement must identify the time, place and purpose for the meeting. No other business may be considered aside from that stated in the announcement to the congregation.

**Section 3 - Quorum:** No minimum number or percentage of members is required for quorum purposes at a congregational meeting. All business presented to the congregation for a vote will

be determined by a simple majority of those present.

**Section 4 - Absentee Voting:** In the event a member is not present, such member may be represented by a duly authorized absentee ballot. This person must sign an absentee register, be given an absentee ballot, cast their vote pertaining to the issue or issues at hand and be returned immediately. Absentee ballots will be made available 7 days prior to the congregational meeting.

## **Article V: Government**

**Section 1 - Self-Governing:** Wentzville Christian Church is and will remain self-governing and subject to no other ecclesiastical or political body.

**Section 2 - Elders:** Elders serving this congregation in conformity with the New Testament will lead Wentzville Christian Church and serve as a board of Overseers/Directors. The elders shall have oversight of the operations and direction of Wentzville Christian Church; including hiring, firing, and discipline of staff members (Acts 20:28, I Peter 5:1-3). The elders may delegate these responsibilities, from time to time, in whole or in part, to one or more staff members or to a committee of members or elders formed for that purpose. At no time shall there be fewer than 5 elders. Elders will meet on a monthly basis to accomplish their duties.

1. It is required that a minimum of one more than a majority of elders be present for a resolution to pass.
2. At all elder meetings a majority vote shall govern, unless otherwise specified in these by-laws.

**Section 3 - Ministers And Other Staff Members:** These individuals will serve under the oversight of the elders.

### **Section 4 - Various Leadership/Administrative Positions:**

1. Chairman of the Elders - He shall preside over all meetings (Elders, Congregational Meetings)
2. Vice Chairman of the Elders - In the absence of the chairman, he shall assume all duties.
3. Recording Secretary - This individual shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the congregation. All records shall be open for inspection at reasonable times by any member except when they include personal spiritual matters, disciplinary issues, or any other private matters. This person shall also ensure an accurate list of church membership is kept.
4. Treasurer - This person leads the Finance Team which reports to and advises the elders in financial matters such as strategic planning, budgeting, reporting, etc.
5. Financial Secretary - This person handles day to day duties involving accounts payable/receivables, payroll, reporting, contribution tracking, taxes, etc. This person coordinates closely with the Treasurer and serves on the Finance Team.
6. Trustees - The Elders shall serve as trustees of Wentzville Christian Church, a non-profit corporation.

**Section 5 - Dismissal / Resignation:** An elder or staff member may resign at any time or may be removed from their position by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the elders at a meeting called for that purpose. If the individual being removed has the right to vote in leadership meetings, they shall not have the right to vote either for or against their own removal. If an elder dies, resigns or is removed from office, the elders may choose to appoint someone for the remainder of his term.

## **Article VI: Selection of Elders**

**Section 1 - Biblical Position Of Elder:** There shall be elders as provided for in the New Testament.

### **Section 2 - Selection Process For Elders:**

1. During August and September, the current elders will identify potential new elders. The elders will also form a nominating committee to review the individuals identified and provide

feedback to the elders by the middle of October. This committee, led by an elder, will consist of at least one elder, one minister, and three congregational members.

2. The current elders will conduct any necessary interviews and finalize the list of names that will be presented to the congregation on the second Sunday in November. These names will only be made public after they have signed the Wentzville Christian Church Statement of Faith, adhering to the teachings of God's Word.
3. On the second Sunday in November it will be communicated from the pulpit and in the bulletin who is being considered for an elder. In the same manner, it will also be communicated that if any member has a scriptural reason as to why one of these individuals listed should not serve as an elder, they must provide a written statement of their scriptural objection, sign it, and speak to one of the current elders by the end of November. If a scriptural objection is substantiated by the elders, that individual's name will be removed from the list. If no scriptural objections are substantiated, the elders shall appoint these individuals to their leadership position. Their names will be published in the bulletin, along with the announcement of Ordination Sunday.
4. Newly selected and returning elders will assume their role on January 1<sup>st</sup>. All newly appointed elders (those who have never previously been an elder) will be "set apart" at a public ordination service in January.

**Section 3 - Terms:** Elders will be selected for a four year term. After this period it is required to take a year off before being considered again as an elder. The Senior Minister, who will also serve as an elder, will not take a year off. In the event a minimum of five elders cannot be maintained, the current eldership has the freedom to ask the elder taking a year's absence to serve another year.

**Section 4 - Appointed Positions By Elders:** The elders shall appoint for a term of one year the following positions: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Recording Secretary, Treasurer and Financial Secretary.

## **Article VII: Selection of a Minister or Ministerial Staff**

**Section 1 - Selection Process:** When the selection of a new Senior Minister becomes necessary, the elders shall appoint a search team. This search team shall investigate and recommend a candidate to the elders. Once a candidate has been selected, the elders will recommend this individual to the congregation. The congregation will then vote on this individual to confirm their agreement with the elders and search team. This individual being considered for a senior minister must receive at least a two-thirds (2/3) vote in a congregational meeting. Only one candidate for a specific position will be presented to the congregation for consideration at any given time.

For all other ministerial positions, the elders and senior minister shall search for and call these individuals to serve with Wentzville Christian Church and requires no congregational vote.

**Section 2 - Resignation/ Dismissal:** A ministerial staff member shall serve the congregation according to New Testament principles until such a time when either the elders or the ministerial staff member gives notice to terminate their employment. When immoral or unethical actions have been committed by the ministerial staff person, the elders reserve the right to immediately relieve the staff person of their duties.

## **Article VIII: - Church Discipline**

Wentzville Christian Church, through the discretion of the elders, reserves the right to practice disciplinary procedures as described in the New Testament. (Matthew 18:15-17; Luke 17:3-4; Galatians 6:1-3; Romans 16:17-18; I Corinthians 5:1-5,11; II Corinthians 2:5-11; II Thessalonians 2:6-15; II Timothy 2:23-26; II John 7-11; Titus 3:9-11)

## **Article IX: - Sale or Purchase of Real Property/Church Assets**

Any purchase or sale of real property by Wentzville Christian Church (of greater value than \$200,000), or of substantially all of Wentzville Christian Church assets requires separate approval of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the elders and of a simple majority of the members of Wentzville Christian Church present at meetings called for the purpose of considering such a purchase or sale.

## **Article X: Disposition Of Assets Upon Dissolution**

Upon dissolution of Wentzville Christian Church, after payment of all obligations and liabilities, all Wentzville Christian Church funds, and/or other assets of property, will be donated to one or more non-profit organizations adhering to the Christian Church/Church of Christ principles, as selected by the last Wentzville Christian Church Board of Elders.

## **Article XI: Amendments**

Amendments to these by-laws can be made at a meeting of the congregation, providing the amendments have been presented to elders for consideration prior to this congregational meeting and provided these proposed changes have been made available to the congregation before the scheduled congregational meeting. A majority of those voting at such a meeting is necessary for adoption of an amendment.

No amendment can be made that violates or affects the doctrine of the Bible. In all doctrinal matters the Bible (God's Word) shall be consulted.

## **Article XII: Liability and Indemnification**

### **Section 1 - Liability**

The Elders of Wentzville Christian Church shall not, by reason of their service or activities as an elder or officer, be personally liable for any of Wentzville Christian Church's debts, obligations or liabilities.

### **Section 2 - Indemnification**

Wentzville Christian Church shall indemnify any elder or officer, or former elder or officer, against expenses incurred in connection with the defense of any action, suit, or proceeding in which he is made a party by reason of being, or having been, such elder or officer, to the maximum extent permitted by law. Such indemnification shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which such elder or officer may be entitled under these by-laws, any agreement, action of the Board of Elders, or otherwise.

### **Section 3 - Prohibition Against Self-Dealing**

Anything contained in this Article to the contrary notwithstanding, Wentzville Christian Church shall in no event indemnify any person otherwise entitled to such indemnification if such indemnification would constitute "self-dealing" as defined in Section 4941 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

## **Article XIII: The Institution of Marriage**

The church believes in the institution of marriage as established in Scripture; that a marriage is the union of one man and one woman, and is the only legitimate and acceptable sexual relationship.

These by-Laws of Wentzville Christian Church have been adopted by majority approval of the congregation on this date: \_\_\_\_\_

Attested to by the signatures of the elders to the congregation below:

\_\_\_\_\_ Elder

\_\_\_\_\_ Elder

\_\_\_\_\_ Elder

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