

CHURCH OF THE LIVING CHRIST

699 Riverside Drive
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DISCIPLINE OF THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING CHRIST

Having confessed Jesus Christ as our Savior, and having been baptized according to His command and example, as set forth in the Scriptures, and being now banded together in a local congregation, we do hereby set forth the following rules and precepts to be the governing laws of the congregation.

ARTICLE I

Doctrine

We do hereby acknowledge that the doctrine (teachings) of our faith be the entire Word of God (II Timothy 3:15-17). We acknowledge the following to be fundamental to the Christian faith and a firm foundation upon which the child of God may build and grow in the knowledge of the Son of God, going on unto perfection, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

- A. We believe that the Bible, made up of 66 books, divinely inspired by God, and free from error in doctrine, fact and ethic, i.e., inerrant, is the Word of God and the only infallible and authoritative rule of faith and practice.

Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 5:18; John 17:17

- B. We believe in one Triune God, eternally existent in three co-equal persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

II Corinthians 13:14; I Peter 1:2

- C. We believe in the Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, and in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal and physical return in power and glory.

Deity - John 1:1&2; 1:14; 14: 9-11

Virgin Birth - Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18

Sinless Christ - II Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15

Miracles - John 2:1-11; 4: 46-54
Shed Blood - Matthew 26:28; Luke 22:20
Resurrection - Matthew 28: 5 & 6; Mark 16:1-6
Ascension - Luke 24: 50 & 51; Acts 1:9; 7: 55 & 56
Physical Return - Acts 1: 10 & 11; I Thessalonians 4:16

- D. We believe that man was created in the image of God, but that through sin, he brought upon himself and his posterity, not only physical death, but also spiritual death which is separation from God; that all human beings by physical birth possess a sinful nature and are therefore actual sinners in thought, word, and deed, and that man, as such, is condemned to hell and utterly unable to remedy his lost condition by himself or by ecclesiastical rite.

Genesis 1: 26&27 - 3: 1-8; Romans 3: 9-18; 3:23; Revelations 21:8

- E. We believe that the salvation of lost and sinful man is a free gift of God's grace apart from works, based solely upon Christ's vicarious and atoning death, effected by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit, and received by trusting in Christ's finished work on the cross.

Salvation - John 3:16; Romans 1:16; 10: 1-10; Ephesians 2: 8&9

- F. We believe in Water Baptism by Immersion and in the dedication of Infants and children to God rather than in infant baptism.

Water Baptism - Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38-41; Romans 6
Infant Dedication - I Samuel 1: 24-28; Proverbs 22:6; Luke 2: 21-23
Reference Article VII

- G. We believe in Divine Healing, through faith, and that healing is included in the atonement.

Divine Healing - Exodus 15:26; Isaiah 53:5; Mark 9:23; I Peter 2:24

- H. We believe in Sanctification by the blood of Christ, in personal holiness of heart and life, and in separation from the world. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by Whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.

Sanctification - Romans 15: 15 & 16; Hebrews 10:10
Personal Holiness - II Corinthians 7:1; I Thessalonians 3:12 & 13

Separation - II Corinthians 6:17; II Timothy 2:19
Holy Spirit Present Day - Acts 1:8; 2: 38&39

- I. We believe in the Baptism in the Holy Spirit evidenced by speaking in other tongues.

Holy Spirit - Acts 1: 4&5; 1:8; 2:4

- J. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost - they that are saved to the resurrection of life and they that are lost to the resurrection of damnation.

Resurrection - Acts 24: 14 & 15
Of the Saved - I Corinthians 15
Of the Lost - Revelations 20: 14 & 15; 21:8

- K. We believe in the spiritual unity of all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 12: 12-27; Ephesians 4: 1-6

- L. We believe in intensive world-evangelization and missionary work in accordance with the Great Commission, with signs following.

Matthew 28: 18-20; Mark 16: 15-18

- M. We believe in the sanctity of marriage, and that God plainly teaches that marriage is only between one man and one woman.

Genesis 2: 21-24; Mark 10: 6-9
Reference Article VII

Revised/Adopted/Congregational Meeting 10/18/2015

ARTICLE II

Membership

Members of this congregation shall be those persons who having believed in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and having publicly confessed this belief, have been baptized in water according to Matthew 28:19 and Romans 6, and have, therefore, stated their desires to become affiliated with this particular congregation subject to the ruling of the Official Board.

ARTICLE III

Meetings

1. A Congregational meeting shall be held during the month of February with two weeks prior notice for the purpose of receiving reports of the work of the preceding year, and for the purpose of electing officers and making plans for the ensuing year. The meeting shall be presided over by the Chairman of the Congregation.
2. At the request of the Official Board of the church, the Chairman of the Congregation may call a special congregational meeting at any time. A suitable notice of such a meeting shall be given.
3. Those members who have been regular attendants at the services and have contributed tithes and offerings for the support of the church during the preceding year shall be entitled to vote in any congregational meeting.

Revised/Adopted/Congregational Meeting 2/1/95

ARTICLE IV

Presiding Officer

The pastor shall be the Presiding Officer at all meetings, and shall preside as Chairman of the Congregation. In the absence of the Pastor, the Head Elder will preside at all Official Board Meetings and Congregational Meetings.

ARTICLE V

Elections

At the annual Congregational Meeting the Elders, Bible School Superintendent and any other officers deemed necessary, shall be elected.

ARTICLE VI

Organization

1. The Official Board shall be empowered to act for the congregation for the interim between annual meetings or special congregational meetings, except as

hereafter noted. This Board shall be composed of the Pastor, Elders, Bible School Superintendent, Treasurer, Secretary and Members at Large as necessary.

2. The Official Board, relative to finance that would place indebtedness on the congregation, shall make a recommendation to the congregation to be voted upon by the membership.
3. The Elders of the congregation shall consist of not more than seven (7) men approved by the congregation and representing those best qualified as defined in I Timothy 3. Generally, they shall be the supervision of the spiritual well being of the congregation, the worship service, the communion, the disciplinary problems, the ministry to the sick or the extension of new ministry.
4. No Elder or member of the Official Board shall be personally liable for any action or omission related to his responsibilities as such, unless he has breached or failed to perform the duties of his office as described in 42 PA C.S. Paragraph 8363, and said breach or failure to perform constitutes self-dealing, willful misconduct, or recklessness; provided, however, that nothing in this by-law shall be construed to impose a greater standard of liability on said person than is set forth in Pennsylvania Act 1986-57 (42 PA C.S. Paragraph 8332.2). This section shall apply retroactively to any action or omission occurring on or after January 27, 1987.
5. The Church corporation may, by resolution adopted by a majority of a quorum of independent legal counsel, indemnify any person who was or is a party or threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding (including actions by or in right of the corporation to procure a judgment in its favor), whether civil, criminal or investigative, by reason of the fact that he or she is or was a representative of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a representative of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses (including attorney's fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred, unless such person's actions or omissions in connection with the matter giving rise to the claim for indemnification have been determined by a court to have constituted willful misconduct or recklessness. The corporation may also advance payments for such expenses to such persons prior to final disposition of such action, suit or proceeding upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of such person to repay said amounts if such person shall ultimately be determined not to be entitled to indemnification. The Church Corporation shall make such indemnification if such person has been successful on the merits or otherwise

in defense of said action, suit or proceeding. The Church Corporation may maintain a reserve, or may purchase and maintain insurance for the purpose of indemnification on behalf of any or all persons to the full extent permitted under Section 7747 of the Pennsylvania Non-Profit Corporation Law of 1972.

Adopted/Congregational Meeting 2/13/2020

ARTICLE VII DEFINITIONS

Marriage

1. We believe in the institution of marriage. God, the Creator, designed marriage to be a lifelong union between man and woman. We do not acknowledge same sex marriage and will not solemnize such a relationship. Homosexual marriage violates the divine ideal and homosexual behavior is clearly and consistently spoken against in Scripture as unnatural and immoral.

Genesis 2:18, 20b-24; 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:22, 23; 20:13; Matthew 19:3-6; Romans 1:26-27; I Corinthians 6:9-11.

2. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity should be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. Also that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex.

Genesis 2:24; Genesis 19:5; Leviticus 18:1-30; 20:10-21; Romans 1:26-29; I Corinthians 5:1, 6:9-11; I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4.

Adopted/Congregational Meeting 10/18/2015

Baptism

We believe baptism is the adult response to repentance and salvation through Jesus Christ. Infants and children under the age of accountability are to be dedicated to God and raised to accept salvation through Jesus Christ when they (he or she) become of age.

Water Baptism – Matthew 3:11-17; 28:19; Acts 2:38-41; Romans 6

Adopted/Congregational Meeting 10/18/2015

BY-LAWS

Article I: Approved by Vote

A 2/3 majority of members present shall be required to constitute the approval of all articles presented to the congregation, except pertaining to changes in the Constitution, which shall require a unanimous vote by 100% of the membership present.

Article II: Committees

The Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee shall prepare a ticket of nominations consisting of one or more names for each office to be filled, and who have consented to serve if elected, and shall present the ballot at the annual meeting. This ticket shall have been presented to the Official Board at least one week previous to the annual meeting.

Article III: Bills and Obligations

No person or persons shall place the church in obligation for a sum in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) unless authority has been given by due action of the Official Board. All bills shall be submitted to the Official Board before payment is made unless this rule necessitates a delay beyond the close of a discount period in the matter of an obligation already assumed by the Official Board.

Revised and updated 10/18/2015

. Revised and updated 2/13/2020 supersedes all previous editions