

BYLAWS OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Article 1

Name and Geographical Area

Section 1: The name of this organization is First Christian Church of Christ of Onawa, Iowa, which is incorporated under Iowa Code Chapter 504A as a nonprofit corporation.

Section 2: This corporation shall serve an area consisting of Onawa and the surrounding area.

Article 2

Purpose and Objectives

Section 1: The purpose and objectives of First Christian Church are to establish and maintain a local Christian Church, with instrumental music, patterned after the plan set forth in the New Testament of the Holy Bible; to provide a place of worship for the same in the City of Onawa, to provide for the preaching of the Word of God without additions of human creeds or subtraction of the commands of the Lord, and the weekly observance of the Lord's Supper. This corporation shall have and exercise the usual powers of charitable Corporations, under and by virtue of the Laws of the State of Iowa and shall be a corporation without seal.

Article 3

Membership

Section 1: Membership in First Christian Church shall require no more or no less than that which is required for salvation in the New Testament, to-wit:

- a. A belief in Jesus as the Christ, the only begotten and only unique Son of the Living God; (John 1:14; Colossians 1:15-20)
- b. Repentance by making a decision to turn from sin to an active obedience to the commands of God recorded in the New Testament; (Acts 2:38; 17-30)
- c. A verbal confession of faith before adult witnesses; (Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 10:32-33)
- d. Immersion (Baptism) in water in obedience to Christ for the purpose of receiving the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit; (Acts 2:38; Romans 6:1-7; Gal. 3:26-29)
- e. Transfer of membership from other Evangelical churches shall be accepted upon the expressed desire and willingness to comply with the requirements outlined in subparagraphs (a) through (d) above.

Section 2: Maintaining membership in First Christian Church requires being faithful in all spiritual duties set forth in New Testament scriptures essential to the Christian Life, to attend habitually the services of this church, to give regularly to its support and benevolence, and to share in its organized work.

Section 3: Upon order of the Elders, the names of members shall be dropped from the church rolls for any of the following reasons:

- a. Lack of attendance;
- b. Lack of financial support;

(Amended January 6, 2011)

- c. Lack of service;
- d. Unchristian-like conduct.

Consideration for such action shall only be after a reasonable number of attempts have been made to encourage and assist in a renewal of a covenant relationship between the member and the church.

Section 4: Any person who has been expelled from membership in this church may, upon evidence of repentance and reformation, and on recommendation of the Elders, be restored to membership.

Section 5: Membership in First Christian Church in Onawa is required before any office, sponsorship, teaching position, voting privilege or any other such position or privilege may be acquired.

Article 4 **Officers of the Church**

Section 1: The following are the officers of the First Christian Church:

- a. **Elders:** The oversight of the congregation shall be the responsibility of the Elders. The Elders shall meet the qualifications as set forth in the New Testament scriptures. The Elders shall appoint a Chairman from the Eldership annually.
- b. **Deacons:** Shall assist the Elders in promoting the growth and welfare of the church. The Deacons shall meet the qualifications as set forth in the New Testament scriptures.
- c. **Church Board:** The Church Board shall consist of the elected Elders and Deacons. The Board shall elect a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary to serve the Church Board. The term of service as the Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be two years. The Vice-Chairman shall succeed the Chairman after two years.
- d. **Chairman:** The Chairman of the Board shall fulfill the usual duties of such an officer, calling and presiding at regular and special business meetings of the Board and of the congregation, serve as spokesman for the Board, vote only in case of ties, and be ex-officio member of all committees and departments and shall be informed of all meetings.
- e. **Vice-Chairman:** The Vice-Chairman shall fill the usual duties of the Chairman in the absence of the Chairman.
- f. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall receive and make a record of all funds and shall deposit them in the proper church accounts, shall disburse by check only all funds of the church according to the authority designated by the Church Board and shall present a regular report at each regular meeting of the Church Board. An annual report shall be presented at the annual church congregation meeting. All such reports shall be posted for congregational inspection.
- g. **Financial Secretary:** The Financial Secretary shall count and record all collections made in the name of the Church by each individual, shall give an accounting to any individuals requesting their record of giving and shall timely report all collections and deposits to the Church Treasurer.
- h. **Board Secretary:** The Board Secretary shall maintain a permanent record of meetings of the Church Board and the congregation. The Board Secretary shall be appointed by the Church Board.

Bylaws of First Christian Church

- i. **Senior Minister:** The Elders shall appoint a pulpit committee, which shall select and recommend a prospective minister to the Church Board. If the prospective minister is approved by the Church Board, the prospective minister shall be recommended to the congregation. The prospective minister shall be appointed as Senior Minister if he receives a minimum positive vote of 80% of the congregation present the Sunday the vote is taken. The Senior Minister shall be dismissed if the Elders recommend dismissal to the congregation and the dismissal recommendation receives a majority vote of the congregation present the Sunday the vote is taken. The duties of the Senior Minister shall be specified in a written contract drafted by the Church Board.

Section 2: Elders, Deacons, the Treasurer and the Financial Secretary shall be elected if each receives a minimum positive vote of 80% of the congregation present at the annual meeting.

Section 3: The Church Board shall be responsible for the maintenance of church properties and for the hiring of personnel for the effective and efficient functioning of the church program.

Article 5

Elections

Section 1: Voter Eligibility:

- a. A prospective voter must be an active member of First Christian Church of Onawa as outlined in Article 3;
- b. A prospective voter must be a minimum of age 18.

Section 2: Nominating Committee:

- a. A Nominating Committee, consisting of three members from the Church Board, shall be appointed by the Church Board at each April business meeting;
- b. Nominations shall be encouraged and considered from the members of the congregation during the month of April;
- c. The Nominating Committee shall prayerfully and conscientiously screen and select nominees to serve as Elders and Deacons and shall present those nominees to the Church Board. Upon approval of the Church Board, nominees shall be contacted personally and shall be asked if they will accept the responsibilities of the office if elected. If a nominee agrees to serve if elected, that nominee's name shall be placed on the ballot for the next election, along with a specific term of years for that nominee as determined by the Church Board.

Section 3: Terms of office of Elders and Deacons:

- a. Terms of office shall be for one, two or three years, as designated by the Church Board for a given office;
- b. At the conclusion of one year of service, a first-term Elder or Deacon shall be considered for nomination to a two or three year term. If approved for a longer term by the Church Board, that Elder or Deacon shall be placed on the next ballot for the term designated by the Church Board.

Section 4: Procedure:

- a. Elections shall be by secret ballot during the church service held on the first Sunday in July of each year, immediately preceding the Annual Meeting;

(Amended January 6, 2011)

- b. The Chairman of the Church Board shall appoint three Board members not on the ballot to count the ballots.

Article 6

Meetings

Section 1: Business Meeting:

- a. A monthly business meeting of the Church Board shall be held on the first Thursday evening of each month, at a time called by the Chairman
- b. The business meeting shall be attended by the Minister, Elders and Deacons, and is open to any member of the congregation.

Section 2: Annual Meeting:

The annual meeting of the church congregation shall be held on the first Sunday of July for the purpose of reading annual reports, approving the annual budget, electing officers and transacting any other business that may be properly brought before the meeting.

Section 3: Special Meetings

- a. A special meeting of the membership or Church Board may be called at any time by the Senior Minister or by the Chairman of the Board;
- b. Voter eligibility at special shall be the same as set out above.

Article 7

Amendments to Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended by the following procedure:

- a. A proposed amendment shall be read in full at a business meeting of the Church Board, and the full text of the proposed amendment shall be published in the minutes of that meeting;
- b. The proposed amendment shall be voted upon at the next monthly business meeting. If the proposed amendment receives approval of 75% of the Church Board members present, the proposed amendment shall be adopted and these bylaws shall be amended as proposed.
- c. Immediately after any amendment is adopted, the amendment shall be incorporated into these bylaws and these bylaws shall be reprinted as amended, with a notation on the face of the reprinted bylaws as to when the amendment was incorporated into these bylaws.