



BYLAWS

Revised March 5, 2023

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this church is Cross Fellowship Church (hereinafter referred to in the Bylaws as the “church”).

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

This church exists to glorify God by making disciples of all nations.

ARTICLE III. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Membership

Any person is qualified for membership in the church based upon his or her (1) profession of faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, (2) identification with Christ’s death, burial and resurrection through believer’s baptism by immersion, (3) affirmation of the Membership Covenant and (4) affirmation of the church’s Statement of Core Beliefs.

Section 2: Admission of Members

The elders shall be responsible for determining the process and each person’s qualification for membership. To be admitted into church membership applicant’s shall be recommended by the elders for admission and affirmed by the members of the church by a majority vote at any regular or special meeting of the members, and shall at that point relinquish their membership in other churches.

Section 3: Duties and Privileges of Membership

Each member is expected to live in accordance with the church covenant and core beliefs. Under Christ this congregation is governed by its members.

Section 4: Termination of Membership

Membership shall be terminated for the following reasons: (1) transfer of membership to another church, (2) death of the member, (3) personal written request of the member, or (4) church discipline (Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5:1-13).

Section 5: Discipline and Restoration

Any member who knowingly, blatantly, and consistently fails to live in accordance with the church covenant and direct commands and prohibitions of Scripture, or teaches contrary to the church’s core beliefs, shall be subject to the admonition of the elders and the discipline of the church, according to the

Scriptural guidelines outlined in Matthew 18:15-17, 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 and Galatians 6:1-5. Church discipline should only be contemplated after individual private admonition has failed.

Church discipline can include admonition by the elders or congregation, removal from leadership or service, and termination of membership.

ARTICLE IV. ELDERS

Section 1: Responsibilities

As used in Scripture, the term “elder” is synonymous with “pastor” and “overseer.” The elders will be responsible for the primary oversight of the church as they carry out their Scripturally mandated ministries of (1) teaching, (2) protecting, (3) caring for, and (4) leading the church (Acts 20:28-31; 1 Timothy 3:2, 5:17; Titus 1:9; Hebrews 13:7, 17; James 5:14- 16; 1 Peter 5:1-4). Elders will meet regularly for prayer, personal accountability, and the fulfillment of their Scripturally mandated ministry responsibilities.

The elders shall serve as Directors of the Corporation. When signatures of the Directors of the Corporation are needed to transact business, the signatures of at least two active elders reflecting the unity of the elders shall represent the Corporation.

Section 2: Qualifications

Elders will be selected from the adult male membership of the church as led by the Holy Spirit and affirmed by the church membership. The qualifications for elders are contained in the following Scripture passages: 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-4.

Section 3: Selection

Should the need for additional elders arise, there will be an active search initiated by the elders for men who meet the biblical qualifications. Elders will receive nominations for new elders from the church membership. Elder nominees shall complete a questionnaire and participate in an interview process as determined by the Elders. Elder candidates must then be approved by a vote of no less than three-fourths (3/4) of the elders in attendance at a meeting of the elder council. Such candidates shall then be made available to be examined by the congregation before being presented to the church for affirmation at a members’ meeting. Approval of elder candidates shall require the affirmative vote of no less than three-fourths (3/4) of the members in attendance at the members’ meeting.

The number of candidates presented to the membership for affirmation is not preset, but is determined by the needs of the church and the number of qualified men to fill the office.

Section 4: Terms of Service

There shall not be a preset term of service for elders, except for lay elders. Lay elders are elders which are not employed by the church. Lay elders shall hold office for a term of three years and may be reaffirmed by the church after the third year by a vote of no less than three-fourths of the members in

attendance at the members' meeting. If the church fails to reaffirm a lay elder, such elder's term of office shall terminate at that time. After a lay elder has served six consecutive years, he must take a sabbatical of at least one year, during which time he no longer serves in the office of elder. After the one-year sabbatical he is eligible to be reelected to the office of elder.

Section 5: Removal

If at any time an elder is not fulfilling his responsibilities, fails to meet the biblical qualifications, or no longer desires to serve, the elder may be removed from office. Any two members with reason to believe that an elder should be dismissed should express such concern to the elders and, if need be, to the congregation. Any such action shall be done in accordance with the Scriptural instructions in Matthew 18:15-17 and 1 Timothy 5:17-21. After investigation and consideration of the grievance, and a determination that the grievance is true and substantial, the elder may be removed from office by a recommendation of the elder council and affirmation of the church membership. Any elder may be dismissed by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the members at any members' meeting of the church.

ARTICLE V. DEACONS

Section 1: Responsibilities

As used in Scripture, the term deacon means servant. Therefore deacons, under the leadership of the elders, will be the leading servants in the church and serve in areas where ministering to the temporal needs of the church is of primary importance.

Section 2: Qualifications

Deacons will be church members who demonstrate Christ-like character, soundness in doctrine, and a servant spirit. The qualifications for deacons are specified in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

Section 3: Selection

As the need for deacons arises, there will be an active search initiated by the elders for members who meet the biblical qualifications. The covenant membership may also recommend names of potential candidates. The elders will examine each candidate to determine if they meet the biblical qualifications and present them to the membership for affirmation. Approval of deacon candidates shall require the affirmative vote of no less than three-fourths (3/4) of the members in attendance at the members' meeting.

Section 4: Terms of Service

There is neither a preset number of deacons, nor a preset term of service for deacons.

Section 5: Removal

If at any time a deacon is not fulfilling their role, fails to meet the biblical qualifications, no longer desires to serve, or is no longer needed because their ministry has become obsolete, the elders will

evaluate the situation and the deacon may be removed from office. If any two members have Biblical reason to believe that a deacon should be dismissed from office they should express such concern to the elders. Any such action shall be done in accordance with the Scriptural instructions in Matthew 18:15-17 and 1 Timothy 5:17-21. After investigation and consideration of the grievance, and a determination that the grievance is true and substantial, the deacon may be removed from office by a recommendation of the elder council and affirmation of the church membership. Any deacon may be dismissed by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the members at any members' meeting of the church.

ARTICLE VI. MINISTRY TEAMS

Section 1: Responsibility

Selected ministries of the church will be carried out by ministry teams that allow members to serve and exercise their spiritual gifts. The ministry teams will be overseen by the elders, led primarily by deacons, and empowered by the church to fulfill their ministries of service.

Section 2: Ministry Team Leaders

The elders will assign an elder to oversee each ministry team and select a team leader, preferably a deacon if possible. Qualifications and responsibilities for ministry team leaders will be determined by the elders. There will be no preset term for team leaders, but the elders can recommend rotation or sabbatical years if necessary. Budget and cost expenditures for each ministry team shall be determined by the appointed elder of oversight, along with the aid of the ministry team leader.

Section 3: Ministry Team Members

The ministry team leader may enlist members to assist in carrying out their service. Qualifications and responsibilities service on a ministry team will be determined by each ministry team leader, along with the aid and oversight of the elders. There will be no preset term for team members, but the team leader and/or assigned elder can recommend rotation or sabbatical years for team members. If at any time a ministry team leader or ministry team member is not fulfilling their responsibilities, fails to meet the qualifications of their specific ministry team, or no longer desires to serve, they can be removed by the elders from their area of responsibility. Elders can also at any point remove a ministry team as a ministry of the church if it is no longer needed.

ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS

Section 1: Worship Gatherings

The church shall meet for worship each Sunday or at other times as authorized by the elders.

Section 2: Members' Meetings

There shall be a regular members' meeting at some time apart from the public worship gathering in which the members gather together to conduct the business of the church. The scheduling of these

meetings will be determined by the elders and properly communicated to members in advance along with any pertinent matters to be discussed. These matters will be disseminated to the members in advance of the meeting in order to allow ample time for the membership to pray, ask questions and provide feedback, and confidently support the decisions recommended by the elders. An elder will lead the meeting.

Section 3: Voting

Members' meetings shall be held for members to vote on recommendations of the elders including, without limitation, any of the following:

- Calling or dismissing elders (a three-fourths, 3/4, majority vote is required)
- Admission into, or termination of, membership (a simple majority vote is required)
- Annual financial ministry budget (a simple majority vote is required)
- Capital purchases, building or indebtedness activities where the value exceeds 10 percent of the annual financial ministry budget (a three-fourths, 3/4, majority vote is required)
- Changes to the church Bylaws (a three-fourths, 3/4, majority vote is required)
- Dissolution of the church corporation or the disposition of all, or substantially all, of the church assets (a three-fourths, 3/4, majority vote is required)
- Deacon selection (a three-fourths, 3/4, majority vote is required)
- Other items the elders believe to be of significant importance

Only the votes of members present shall be counted in determining whether the requisite majority is obtained. Voting by proxy or absentee ballot is not permitted. Unless otherwise provided in the Bylaws, matters presented to the members for vote shall be decided by a simple majority vote of the members present at the members' meeting.

Voting members shall be restricted to those members sixteen (16) years old or older. Minutes of church covenant member meetings shall be maintained indefinitely.

Other matters may, from time to time, be brought to the church for a vote. Any matter brought before the church for a vote shall first be addressed by the elders. The responsibility of calling members' meetings rests with the elders; however the membership of the church may call a members' meeting by a written petition requesting such a meeting signed by no less than fifty (50) percent of the members of the church.

Section 4: Stewardship Meeting

The church shall hold an annual meeting for the purpose of discussing and affirming the proposed annual financial ministry budget. The development and presentation of the budget is the responsibility of the elders. Budgets will be made available fourteen (14) days prior to the stewardship meeting and vote of the members. During this fourteen (14) day time period members will be given the opportunity to ask clarifying questions and/or voice humble concern to the elders regarding any budgetary items.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

Recommendation for amendments to the Bylaws may be brought to the elders by the membership of the church. After prayerful consideration by the elders, amendments to the Bylaws may be presented at a members' meeting provided each proposed amendment has been presented to the membership in writing at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting. Amendments to the Bylaws shall require a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of church members present and voting, and not by proxy.