

**BYLAWS**  
**CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

Crossroads Christian Church, incorporated under the laws of the State of Indiana, has formed and adopted these Bylaws to set forth the rules by which the Church will be governed. These Bylaws are in accord with the Articles of Incorporation and the principles of church administration practiced by the church of the New Testament.

**ARTICLE I. PURPOSE**

It shall be the purpose of the Church to preach the Gospel and to be governed by the doctrines and practices of the New Testament. This Church shall remain an independent and autonomous congregation, free from all denominational controls or affiliations.

**ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP**

**Section A. Acceptance to membership**

Persons desiring membership in this Church shall be accepted upon one of the following terms:

1. Any person who is old enough to hear and understand the Gospel and repent of his/her sins, shall be united with the Church upon a public confession of faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, by baptism (full immersion in water), and by understanding and accepting the Biblical responsibilities of membership as stated in Article II, Section D.
2. Transfer of membership from another church/organization by a personal statement signifying a previous and continuing commitment of faith and baptism and by understanding and accepting the biblical responsibilities of membership as stated in Article II, Section D.

**Section B. Transfer and Withdrawal from membership**

1. A member in good standing (as defined in Section D) who wishes to transfer membership to another church, will be given a letter of recommendation upon request.
2. A member may withdraw and have his/her name removed from the membership roll upon his/her written request.

**Section C. Termination of membership**

1. After following Scriptural principles of church discipline (as defined in the New Testament), the Council of Elders may dismiss a member for the following reasons:
  - a. Persistent engagement in sinful practices without repentance.
  - b. Conduct, determined by the Council of Elders on the basis of Scripture, detrimental to the spiritual welfare of the Church.
2. The Council of Elders may remove from the membership any person for prolonged lack of support and unfaithfulness in attendance.

#### **Section D. Responsibilities of membership**

A member in good standing of Crossroads Christian Church is expected to:

1. Assume responsibility for his/her own spiritual nourishment through personal and corporate Bible study and prayer. (Acts 2:42, II Timothy 2:15, I Thessalonians 5:17)
2. Participate faithfully in public worship services. (Hebrews 10:25)
3. Join the family life of the church in a congregational and/or small group context. (Acts 2:46, 47a)
4. Exercise his/her spiritual gifts in specific areas of involvement. (Romans 12: 1-8)
5. Support the variety of ministries of the church through prayer and service. (Philippians 1:3-5, 18b-19)
6. Contribute financially to this congregation in a consistent, generous manner. (I Corinthians 16:1,2; II Corinthians 8:7)
7. Share his/her faith personally while supporting others who proclaim the gospel around the world. (Acts 8:4; II Corinthians 9:12-15)
8. Respond positively to the leadership of the Council of Elders in matters of Church policy and discipline. (Hebrews 13:17)

### **ARTICLE III. ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

#### **Section A. Governing Body**

The church shall be governed by a Council of Elders.

1. The Elders shall be scripturally qualified men.
2. It shall be the responsibility of the Council of Elders to guide and oversee the direction and work of the Church. In harmony with the Scriptures, the Council shall adopt policies and issue directives to facilitate its responsibilities. These policies and directives shall remain in force, until rescinded by the Council of Elders.

#### **Section B. The Council of Elders**

##### **1. SELECTION**

- a. Nominations may be made by any member in good standing, and shall be submitted to the Council of Elders for review, examination and approval.
- b. Those having satisfactorily completed an Elder review shall be presented to the congregation for approval.

##### **2. QUALIFICATIONS**

- a. The qualifications of each nominee shall be those set forth in the New Testament. Said qualifications shall be examined by the Council of Elders.
- b. Only those (except pastoral staff) who have been active members of the Crossroads Christian Church congregation for one year and are of legal adult age may serve.

##### **3. DUTIES**

- a. Duties shall be as described in the New Testament.

##### **4. TERM**

Scripture indicates no fixed term of office for an Elder. Elders of Crossroads Christian Church shall serve subject to the following provisions:

- a. Any Elder may resign at his own initiative.
- b. The Council of Elders will conduct an annual review of each of its members. Based on this review, the Council may request the resignation of an Elder.
- c. Each Elder shall be presented to the congregation for reaffirmation and rededication after three year's service, or at any time the Council of Elders deems necessary.

#### 5. OFFICERS

The Council of Elders shall meet and elect a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary of the new Council at the first regularly scheduled meeting following the annual meeting of the Church.

#### 6. MEETINGS

- a. The Council of Elders shall meet as often as may be deemed necessary (but a least monthly).
- b. Special meetings may be called by any two (2) Elders. It is the responsibility of the Chairman to notify all Elders of said meeting.
- c. A quorum shall be a simple majority of the Council of Elders.

#### 7. TERMINATION

- a. Any circumstance that renders an Elder unable to fulfill his duties may be cause for termination.
- b. Disciplinary action will be taken against any Elder in spiritual disharmony in accordance with I Timothy 5 and Matthew 18.

### **Section C. Officers of the Church**

Officers of the Church (commonly referred to as Trustees) shall be as described below, and shall hold title to and manage the real property of the Church on behalf of the congregation and be accountable for the acquisition or disposal of real property (fixed) and debt in harmony with the decision of the Council of Elders.

The officers of the Corporation shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The President, Vice-President, and Secretary shall be selected by the Council of Elders from among their membership. The Treasurer of the Corporation shall be that person appointed by the Council of Elders to oversee the financial transactions of the Church.

### **Section D. Deacons and Deaconesses**

#### 1. QUALIFICATIONS

The qualifications for a Deacon or Deaconess shall be those set forth in the New Testament. Said qualifications shall be examined by the Council of Elders prior to appointment.

Newly appointed Deacons or Deaconesses shall be presented to the Church at the time of appointment.

#### 2. TERM OF SERVICE

Term of service shall be by task as assigned by the Council of Elders.

#### 3. DUTIES

Specific areas of ministries shall be assigned by the Council of Elders.

## **ARTICLE IV. CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

### **Section A. Worship**

Worship is the ultimate priority of the church. Therefore, whenever the church assembles, attention is given to the worship of our Creator-Redeemer. Corporate worship will occur at least once each Lord's day and otherwise as often as is deemed practical by the Council of Elders. Acts 2:42 will be used as a biblical model for corporate worship.

### **Section B. Business**

1. Annual meetings of the congregation shall take place to approve the annual budget and to vote on such other resolutions as deemed necessary by the Council of Elders.
2. Special meetings may be invoked by the Council of Elders, or by a written petition signed by 25% of the active membership; such meetings to be scheduled by the Chairman of the Elders.
3. The annual business meeting shall be held in the month prior to the close of the Church's fiscal year. This meeting may be held in conjunction with other congregational gatherings. Notice of the annual and/or special meetings shall be published in the major Church publications and announced publicly for two (2) consecutive weeks immediately prior to the meeting.
4. A quorum shall consist of the members in good standing present at any business meeting of the congregation.
5. To be qualified to vote, the member must be a "member in good standing" as defined by Article II Section D. At any time a vote is taken, the qualifications of Article II Section D shall be read and each person in attendance shall search his/her own conscience and decide whether or not he/she should vote.

## **ARTICLE V. CHOOSING PASTORAL STAFF**

Pastoral staff shall be called upon the recommendation of the Council of Elders subject to the approval of the congregation at a duly announced congregational meeting.

## **ARTICLE VI. FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the Church shall be October 1 to September 30.

## **ARTICLE VII. BUDGET**

The annual budget shall be prepared and presented to the Council of Elders for their approval. The annual budget will then be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting for its approval.

## **ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS**

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any business meeting of the congregation. Any proposed change shall be presented to the congregation in writing not less than two (2) weeks prior to the time of the proposed action. The change shall be available in writing at the Church office and at the Sunday morning services.