

# By-Laws

## Bethany Christian Church of Carrollton

**This new BCC By-Laws document, dated January 2015, and when adopted by the Congregation, cancels all preceding by-laws.**

### Preamble

The Bethany Christian Church, from its organization in September, 1883, has continued consistently through the years to operate as an independent, autonomous, local congregation of New Testament Christians after the Divine pattern as set forth in the New Testament Scriptures, and at no time in history has it yielded its liberty or independence in any matter of policy or administration, in the affairs local, or in its interest in benevolences, missions or education, to any group or agency or organization of any kind whatsoever. At no time during the years since September, 1883, at which time the Bethany Christian Church was organized, has it made any contribution, passed any rule, enacted any motion, formed any alliance or fellowship that would make it any part of anything other than a local congregation of free men and women in Jesus Christ, interested in the spread of the gospel of the Risen Christ throughout the world, for the redemption of men and women from the consequences of sin and evil.

### **Article I: Name and Purpose**

- Section 1: This congregation shall be known as “Bethany Christian Church of Carrollton” (herein after referred to as “BCC”) located in Carroll County, Georgia.
- Section 2: The purpose of this congregation is to evangelize and bring the lost to Christ, and encourage and equip people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. This is to be accomplished by promoting constant and intentional outreach at home and abroad, maintaining public worship, providing religious instruction, promoting the church of Jesus Christ and the principles of the Restoration Movement, providing a place for discipleship and spiritual development, and assisting with the physical needs of those in our community.
- Section 3: The purpose of these By-Laws is to define who we are and how we conduct the business of our congregation in an orderly fashion as commanded by the New Testament (I Corinthians 14:40).
- Section 4: To achieve these objectives, this congregation shall remain free and independent of all outside organizations, whether religious or secular, except where noted in these By-Laws. This congregation shall be governed in all matters of policy and procedure by the Elders. Jesus Christ is the head of His Church, and as revealed through Scripture, the Elders are the designated governing body of BCC. The members of BCC are to respect and submit to the authority of the Elders, who are responsible and accountable to each other and the Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

## **Article II: Membership**

- Section 1: "Membership" at BCC is offered to anyone who:
- A. Believes that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the Son of the Living God and confesses the same before men, and who consciously turns away from sin in repentance, and who is subsequently immersed in Christian baptism for the remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:36-41, Rom. 6:4, Col. 2:12, 1 Pet. 3:21-22); or
  - B. Becomes a member of the Lord's Church (universal) by completing section A above and may then place their fellowship with the BCC congregation at that time. If the requirements from section A have been previously met, a person may transfer their fellowship to BCC from any other congregation by letter, or confession (statement) of faith.

Members are expected to continuously devote themselves to the Apostles' teachings, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer (Acts 2:42).

- Section 2: Termination of membership at BCC may occur due to:
- A. Death of the member,
  - B. Request of the member,
  - C. Disciplinary action against the member by the Eldership.

## **Article III: Elected Officers**

- Section 1: Bethany Christian Church of Carrollton shall be a staff- managed, elder-led, and congregation-empowered organization. The staff shall be empowered to manage BCC within an organizational framework developed by the senior minister and approved by the elders.
- Section 2: The number of Elders (there shall be 2 or more) and Deacons shall be determined according to needs of the congregation as determined by the Elders of BCC. These men shall be nominated according to call and qualification as determined by the New Testament.
- 1. The Elders will consider each man that wishes to serve God in this capacity.
  - 2. After prayerful consideration and verification of qualifications the Elders will select those they have chosen.
  - 3. Those selected will be presented to the congregation at least 2 weeks before an affirmation ballot is presented.
  - 4. The congregational affirmation or lack of affirmation will determine if further action is required before ordination to the office of Elder or Deacon.
- Section 3: An Elder or Deacon may resign for any reason, or may be removed from office by a unanimous vote of the other sitting Elders at a meeting called for that purpose.

## **Article IV: Staff**

Section 1: In the event that a vacancy occurs in the Senior Minister position, the Elders will select a Minister Search Team. The team will consist of, a minimum of two (2) Elders, one (1) Deacon and two (2) members of the congregation at large. The committee, following the guidelines stated by Elders, will canvas the field of Gospel Preachers and recommend their choice or choices for acceptance and approval of the full membership of Elders. The Elders will interview, review, research, and fully vet the selection of the committee. The Senior Minister candidate will be selected by the Elders. The selected candidate will be presented to the full congregation at a regular Sunday morning worship service. The following Sunday the congregation will be asked to affirm the selection of the Elders. Elders will review the affirmation ballots and determine if follow-up action is required.

Interim Preaching Minister - When necessary, a part-time preaching minister may be appointed by the Elders without membership approval. Such a minister shall serve at the will and discretion of the Elders.

Section 2: Additional ministerial support staff, whether paid or volunteer, shall be selected as follows:

- The Senior Minister shall serve as search leader, and/or one man team, and can appoint whomever he feels necessary to carry out the responsibilities of successful search.
- Upon his selection and recommendation the Elders shall have the responsibility of approval.
- The new staff member shall be presented to the congregation. No affirmation of staff is required.
- Staff will fall under the authority of Elders; however Elders delegate supervision of addition staff to the Senior Minister as to fulfillment of positional responsibilities.

## **Article V: Congregational Meetings**

Section 1: Special Congregational Meetings may be called at such time as deemed necessary by the Board of Elders. Announcement for any and all special congregation meeting, giving time and place, shall be made no less than two (2) public services before said meeting. Senior Minister or designee shall issue notification via written communications such as newsletter, e-mail, church bulletin, and/or any other means as deemed appropriate.

Section 2: An annual church budget will be submitted to the Congregation each year. Monthly financial reports will also be prepared and posted for members to review.

Section 3: Congregational meeting may be called by the "Lead" Elder, or the Elder who has been designated by the other Elders in a given year to serve as facilitator for the group in all administrative matters. A congregational meeting may also be called

by a designee of said "Lead" Elder or by consent of a majority of the remaining Elders. Congregational meetings will be conducted by the "Lead" Elder, or his Elder designee.

## **Article VI: Elder Board and Officers**

### **Section 1: Elder Meetings.**

- A. The Elders shall generally meet at least once each month to conduct planning and give direction to the Church. Additional/special Elder meetings may be called by the "Lead" Elder, or by a majority of the Elders.
- Any member of the congregation can petition the Elders to sit in on the non-confidential portions of these meeting, and with prior approval may share their interest with the Eldership.
  - One of the Elders, selected by the group of Elders, shall serve as Secretary at all meetings and shall record minutes of the meeting. These minutes should include, but are not limited to, all business conducted, decisions made, votes cast, and etc. These minutes shall be kept indefinitely by the BCC secretary and made available to BCC members, upon request. All discussions on personal, spiritual, disciplinary, or private matters shall not be available for general congregational viewing.
  - Deacons may be asked, and expected, to attend to make reports, offer suggestions, and/or receive work assignments.
  - A majority of the Elders attending in person, or by phone, shall constitute a quorum to transact business at any and every meeting.
- B. Deacons likewise should meet at least quarterly, or as required to serve effectively, in communicating and carrying out duties.
- C. Lead Elder or Facilitator for every meeting shall be determined by the Elder Board. That Elder/Facilitator shall serve in that position for a period as determined by Elder Board. In each meeting there should be an agenda, made from existing business or items suggested by Sr. Minister, Staff, and Deacons, members of the congregation or other Elders.
- D. Uncovered Situations – All situations not covered by these Articles shall be administered by the Elders.

## **Article VII: General Provisions**

- Section 1: Rules of Order - When not in conflict with these By-Laws and where applicable, Robert's Rules of Order (latest edition) shall govern in matters of parliamentary procedures in all congregational and Elder meetings, unless suspended or altered by the sitting Elders.

**Article VIII: Amendments**

Section 1: Amendments to these By-Laws may be made at any duly-called Congregational meeting by a seventy-five (75%) majority of all eligible votes cast.

Section 3: Written notice setting forth the proposed amendment shall be made available to each member along with notice of a duly-called meeting according to the rules set forth in Article V, Section I.

Approved by Elders:

<i>Keith Burr</i>	<i>Neil Wentz</i>	<i>Jimmy Musick</i>
<i>Donald Logan</i>	<i>Keith Harris</i>	<i>Joey Musick</i>
<i>Jimmy Pate</i>	<i>Mike Jackson</i>	<i>Bill Orbeck</i>
<i>Jim Collins</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	

Adopted, Approved, and Effective by Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_ MM/DD/YYYY