

BY-LAWS OF THE
VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
OF FRUITLAND, IDAHO

ARTICLE I. NAME, PURPOSE, & AUTHORITY

- Section 1. Name - The name of this Church shall be "Valley Christian Church," herein referred to as the Congregation.
- Section 2. Purpose - The purpose of this Church is to be a local congregation of Christians, to carry out the great commission of our Lord Jesus Christ as revealed in the Scriptures found in the Old and New Testament (Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:16) and to give the opportunity for Christian people to continue steadfastly in the Apostles' teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayers (Acts 2:42). In all matters we will abide by the spirit of love expressed by the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by the word of God, using it in the following articles as organizational guidelines.
- Section 3. Authority - The Scriptures are the rule of faith and practice of this congregation with the understanding that our Lord Jesus Christ is the head of the Congregation. In matters not defined specifically by the Scriptures, the leadership will direct the Congregation as ambassadors of Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE II. CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Composition and purpose.

We believe the church government outline in the New Testament Scriptures is based on a plurality of Elders. Therefore, Biblical leadership shall be constituted by no less than three (3) Elders. In the event that the church does not have a plurality of Elders, a Church Board will be utilized for Church leadership.

Regardless of the form of church governance, the following practices are to be observed:

- a) Any leadership position Elder, Deacon, or Staff requires membership of the church for at least one year.
- b) Any purchase over \$1,000.00 requires the congregation be notified at the next public meeting of the church.
Conditions requiring a congregational vote:
 - a) Purchase, sell, transfer, mortgage, or convey personal or real property.
 - b) Purchase equipment or expend funds for any single purpose for an item or service which is not included in the budget and which is valued at more than \$5,000.00.

ARTICLE III. ELDERS

Section 1. Qualifications.

Elders must be qualified in accordance with the Scriptural qualifications or standards outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. For clarification, we believe Elders are to be composed of men who have never been divorced and remarried.

Section 2. Selection of Elders.

- a) Appointment of Elders may take place at any time as needed.
- b) Men desiring to serve as Elders must make their desire known to the leadership.
- c) Upon approval by the leadership, the following occurs:
 - 1) The individual will be presented to the congregation for a thirty (30) day review.
 - 2) During the 30 days any church member who objects to the individual as an Elder must submit in writing to the leadership Biblical reasons for their objections.
 - 3) If there are no Biblical objections within this thirty (30) day period the individual will be set aside as an Elder.

Section 3. Termination of Elders will occur for any of the following:

- a) Death.
- b) The Elder decides to step down or resign by his own choice.
- c) If an Elder does not strive to live his life according to 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9, he may be asked to step down by the remaining Elders or be relieved of his responsibilities until he has proven himself according to the Scriptures, at which time he may be reinstated.
- d) If the Elders cannot agree as to another Elder's termination, the Elders shall seek counsel from the Church Board.

ARTICLE IV. PASTOR

Elders and Pastor are the same word in the New Testament. At VCC a Pastor is a full time Elder who receives financial compensation. For the work of the ministry. In addition to the qualifications of an Elder selection of a Pastor is outlined as follows:

Section 1. Preliminary Search.

In the event of a vacancy, the leadership shall seek information recommendations regarding potential candidates, to interview and screen candidates.

Section 2. Call by the Church.

- a) Only one candidate shall be presented to the church for consideration at any time.

- b) The candidate shall be requested to preach to the congregation on a stated Sunday, an opportunity shall be given to the membership to meet with the candidate.
- c) Pastor to be approved by the leadership.
- d) A full disclosure as to terms of compensation will be made when the candidate is announced to the church.

Section 3. Position of the Pastor.

The Pastor shall be counted as a voting member of the leadership; as with other compensated positions, he is not permitted to vote on monetary issues that could be deemed a conflict of interest. If the Pastor is not currently a member, a one-year probation will be applied to the office.

Section 4. Authority and Responsibilities.

At the time of his call, the Pastor shall sign a written compensation agreement, which shall include ministry goals which have been approved by the leadership.

Section 5. Termination of the Pastor can occur for any of the following:

- a) Death.
- b) The Pastor decides to step down or resign by his own choice.
- c) If the Pastor does not strive to live his life according to 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9, he may be asked to step down by the remaining Elders or be relieved of his responsibilities until he has proven himself according to the Scriptures, at which time he may be reinstated.

ARTICLE V. CHURCH BOARD

Section 1. Organization of the Church Board when less than three Elders.

The leadership shall ordinarily be constituted by three (3) or more Elders. In the event that the church does not have a plurality of Elders, a Men's Leadership Group composed of all the male members of the church who are heads of families and have been members of the church for at least one year and indicate a desire to serve, shall constitute the Church Board.

- a) When the Church Board is in effect, the Church Secretary must advise each qualified member of his opportunity to serve.
- b) Only those members who submit an acceptance of responsibility to serve will be counted as part of the Church Board.
- c) Changes in the church leadership from a Church Board to an Elder-led congregation or vice-versa, will occur automatically. This must be announced within a week to the church through the announcements at the morning worship hour and in the weekly bulletin.
- d) At the first meeting of the Church Board, the members shall elect from among themselves a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and a Secretary.

- e) In the event of a vacancy among the officers of the Church Board, the election of a new officer may take place at any meeting of the Church Board.
- f) Decisions of the Church Board or Elders shall require a unanimous agreement.
- g) The leadership may create such committees as it deems necessary and proper for the conducting of its business. Committee members shall be appointed by the Chairman, with the concurrence of the leadership.
- h) Leadership meetings shall be held monthly.

ARTICLE VI. DEACONS

- Section 1. **Qualifications.**
Deacons must be qualified in accordance with the Scriptural qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. For clarification, we believe Deacons are to be composed of men who have never been divorced and remarried.
- Section 2. As the leadership determines a need for the office of a Deacon. Candidates for Deacon must have their desire known to the congregation. The same procedure as described in Article III, Section 2 letter (a) through letter (c), will be followed for the selection of Deacons. Final ratification of Deacons is by the leadership (Acts 6:2-6).
- Section 3. **Authority and Responsibilities.**
Deacons shall have such authority and responsibility as outlined in the Scriptures, matters not defined specifically by the Scriptures, the leadership will direct the Deacons.
- Section 4. Termination of Deacon will occur for any of the following:
 - a) Death.
 - b) The Deacon decides to step down or resign by his own choice.
 - c) If a Deacon does not strive to live his life according to 1 Timothy 3:8-13, he may be asked to step down by the leadership or be relieved of his responsibilities until he has proven himself according to the Scriptures, at which time he may be reinstated.

ARTICLE VII. MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1. Any person may become a member of this congregation who has confessed Jesus as their Savior, with the expressed intent to follow Him, conform to the Scripture, and has been obedient to Jesus in scriptural baptism or who has received statement of his or her prior confession of faith and baptism, or who is transferring membership from another congregation in good standing (Matt 28:20, Acts 2:38).

- Section 2. Candidates who have obeyed the above requirements, being verified by a minimum of two Elders, having reviewed and agreed to abide by church doctrines (statement of faith, by-laws, and policies) publicly, will be announced to the congregation for a minimum of two weeks prior installation as a member. If there are no Biblical objections, candidates will be confirmed before the congregation, and are considered an active member, with all the rights, privileges and duties of membership. Only members who have obtained their eighteenth (18th) birthday and are actively participating in the ministry of the church shall be qualified to vote.
- Section 3. When members are not actively participating in the ministry of the church, the members voting status shall be determined by the leadership.
- Section 5. Church discipline shall be pursued as defined by the Scriptures (Matt. 18:15-17).
- a) Admonition from one brother to another.
 - b) Admonition from several brothers.
 - c) Admonition and action by the church.
- Section 6. Termination of membership will occur for any of the following:
- a) Death.
 - b) Voluntary resignation.
 - c) Non-participation with the church for more than 6 months.
 - d) Failure to repent after Church discipline has been administered.

ARTICLE VIII. CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

- Section 1. The Annual Meeting of the church shall be held during the 1st quarter of the fiscal year.
- Section 2. Special meetings may be called as deemed necessary by the leadership or by a petition signed by 51% of active voting members.
- Section 3. Notice of all meetings must be given in public services for two Sundays prior to the meeting.
- Section 4. Congregational meetings shall be chaired by a member of the leadership.
- Section 5. A quorum shall be constituted by those present and voting as approved by the leadership.
- Section 6. All decisions shall be taken by at least a three-quarters affirmative vote of those present and voting. Absentee ballots shall be counted at the time of the vote.
- Section 7. Secret ballot may be called for by any member present or as determined necessary.

Section 8. Any active member of the congregation unable to attend the congregational or special meeting may secure an absentee ballot in advance from the church upon request. Absentee ballots must be returned prior to the election in order to be valid, and shall be counted at the time of the general vote.

ARTICLE IX. FINANCIAL

Section 1. Fiscal Year.
The fiscal year of the Church shall be January 1 to December 31.

Section 2. Church Treasurer.
The Church Treasurer shall be appointed by the leadership. Period of service shall be one year but not limited to one year.

Section 3. Financial Records.

- a) A copy of all church financial records shall be kept at the church office or accounting firm.
- b) Regular monthly financial reports shall be approved monthly by the leadership and available to all members.
- c) Semi-Annual reports of financial statements shall be made available to all members upon request.

Section 4. Handling of Funds.

- a) All monies received by the Church shall be deposited intact to a church account approved by the leadership.
- b) All expenditures shall be made from a church account. Two or more members appointed by the leadership shall count all offerings and sign a statement as to the contents. This statement shall be given to the Church Treasurer with the offering and shall be filed with the deposit slip. If one member is absent, an Elder shall take their place.
- c) The Financial records shall be reviewed by the Leadership, prior to the Annual Meeting.
- d) The Church Treasurer shall also act as Financial Secretary, recording gifts by individuals for income tax purposes with the accounting firm.
- e) No funds may be accepted for deposit to the Church account which are designated for organizations or purposes not expressly approved by the leadership.

ARTICLE X. TRUSTEES

Section 1. The Trustees of the Corporation shall be composed of three members in good standing.

Section 2. The Trustees of the Corporation shall act as the legally authorized agents of the Church and shall make only such contracts which shall be binding upon the church as they have been instructed to do by the leadership. The Trustees duties

include, but are not limited to, the authority to execute the borrowing of money, the mortgaging of real property and improvements, the granting of a security interest in all types of fixtures, furnishings, and personality on behalf of the Church.

ARTICLE XI. CHURCH-RELATED MINISTRIES

- Section 1. Authorization.
All church-related ministries must be approved by the leadership prior to their organization.
- Section 2. Staff.
Due to influential nature of their position all staff, including teachers and committee leaders of church-related ministries, must be honest report, spiritually mature and wise. (Acts 6:3). They must be activity participating members of the local congregation and approved by the leadership.
- Section 3. Supervision and Appointment of Officers.
The leadership shall exercise direct or indirect supervision over all church-related ministries and in some key areas such as Youth Ministries, may appoint the leadership and determine how it is to operate, and the literature it is to use, etc.
- Section 4. We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning which is sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a naturally born man and a naturally born woman who are married to each other. We will not perform same-sex weddings for members or non-members, but will conduct wedding ceremonies for one man and one woman as biologically designed by birth. Should we ever be legally forced to perform same-sex weddings, the Eldership will opt out of performing civil ceremonies and will only perform Biblically based "covenant ceremonies" that bless the union between one man and one woman as biologically defined by their natural birth (Gen 2: 18 – 25; Rom 1: 26, 27; 1 Tim. 3: 2, 12).
- Section 5. Any party using the facility cannot use it to teach or promote doctrine contrary to that of Valley Christian Church as defined by church doctrines (statement of faith, by-laws, and policies). This would also include events that would be contrary to a life of godliness and Biblical purity. Specific usage process is outlined by church policies (1 Cor. 10:31).

ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS

The By-Laws of this organization may be amended at any regular meeting, or any special meeting of the congregation called for that purpose, by the affirmative vote of three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the members present and voting at such meeting.