

**Constitution and By-Laws**  
Delaware Christian Church  
Delaware, Ohio 43015

### Article I – Name

This congregation is organized as the Delaware Christian Church, incorporated under the laws of the State of Ohio. This church is totally autonomous and is not and never shall be governed by any other religious or non-religious organization.

### Article II – Membership

The requirements for membership in this congregation shall be the same as Christ's requirements for conversion as stated in the New Testament. These requirements are:

1. Faith in Jesus as the Christ, the son of the living God.
2. Repentance of one's disobedience toward God.
3. Confession of one's faith in Jesus as the Christ.
4. Baptism by immersion, into Christ.
5. Continued faithfulness to Him.

Persons having met these requirements for church membership in another congregation may transfer their membership to this congregation upon their statement and expression of their desire to do so.

### Article III – Doctrine and Practice

Like the New Testament church, we have no creed but Christ. We accept His word stated in the New Testament as our rule of faith and practice. We accept the Bible as the inerrant Word of God.

Our membership shall follow the pattern of Acts 2:42, including the apostles teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer.

### Article IV – Church Offices

#### Section 1 – Elected Officers

The elected offices shall consist of at least two elders and two deacons. The number of elders and deacons may vary and should be increased proportionally as the need arises and qualified men are available for the offices.

#### Section 2 – Appointed Officers

The elders and deacons shall function as the official board. The official board shall appoint from among themselves a president, vice-president, secretary, and (3) trustees.

The official board shall appoint a treasurer. The board may also appoint other functional positions that compliment the administration of church programs.

#### Section 3 – Qualifications

All officers must be members of the Delaware Christian Church. The qualifications for elders and deacons shall be those revealed in the New Testament. (1 Timothy 3; Acts 6; Titus 1)

**Constitution and By-Laws**  
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Section 4 – Duties

*Elders:* The elders shall have general oversight of the spiritual interest of the church: including adherence to Article III, and shall shepherd the congregation. They shall pass upon, by approval or disapproval, all candidates for elder, deacon, and all other positions necessary for the administration and instruction of the church. They shall also approve all materials used for Christian instruction within the church. The elders shall provide for pulpit supply during the absence of the minister/evangelist.

*Deacons:* The deacons shall cooperate with the elders in all things pertaining to the welfare of the congregation, serving in such capacity as the elders may designate.

*Trustees:* The trustees shall represent the Delaware Christian Church in matters of church property, being subject to this constitution, the laws of the State of Ohio, and the prior approval of the elders and the congregation as a body.

Section 5 – Vacancies

In case of a vacancy on the official board, such vacancy may be filled by the selection of a temporary occupant by the elders until the next annual congregational meeting at which time the vacancy shall be filled by regular election

Section 6 – Removal From Office

Any officer of this congregation may be removed from office for the following reasons:

1. Loss of scriptural qualifications.
2. Failure to perform duties of the office.
3. Failure to attend regularly scheduled meetings of the official board.

The elders shall be responsible for administering this provision in accordance with the teachings of the New Testament. Removal from office shall be by a 2/3 majority vote of all the elders only after said officer has been given a written statement of the cause for removal and at least one (1) hearing before the body of elders.

Section 7 – Election of Officers

*Nominations:* Nominations shall be accepted from the congregation beginning the eighth Sunday prior to the annual congregational meeting and until the sixth Sunday prior to the annual congregational meeting. The slate of nominees shall be published at least two weeks prior to the election. Nominations shall be approved as per Article IV, section 3.

*Voting:* Elders and Deacons shall be elected by  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority of votes cast. A quorum shall be established as outlined in Article VII.

Section 8 – Terms of Office

Incoming elders and deacons shall be elected by the congregation at the annual business meeting each year. Elders who will be serving for their first time at Delaware Christian Church shall be elected to a term of one year. After one year of service all elders will be eligible to be elected to serve a term of three years. Deacons who will be serving for the first time at Delaware Christian Church will be elected to a term of one year. After one year of service, all deacons will be eligible to be elected to serve a term of two years.

**Constitution and By-Laws**  
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### Article V – Official Board

The official board shall meet at least monthly for the transaction of business pertaining to the welfare of the congregation. All members of the congregation are encouraged to attend and participate in the official board meetings, however only elected officers shall be eligible to introduce motions and vote.

The business affairs, not otherwise reserved for the congregation, shall be conducted by the official board. A majority of the official board shall be present to transact business and a majority vote of those present shall be necessary and sufficient to pass a measure.

The minister/evangelist shall an ex-officio member of the official board, but shall not have the power to vote in that body.

The official board shall appoint officers (see Article IV, Section 2), at the first regular meeting following the annual congregational meeting.

### Article VI – Minister/Evangelist

The minister/evangelist shall be called by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote of the congregation upon recommendation of the elders. The minister/evangelist shall be called to serve for an indefinite period.

The services of the minister/evangelist may be terminated upon thirty (30) days written notice by either the elders or by the minister/evangelist himself. The thirty (30) day period may be shortened by mutual agreement of the official board and the minister/evangelist.

The minister/evangelist shall be responsible to the elders for the performance of the duties of his job description and contract.

### Article VII – Congregational Meetings

#### Section 1 – Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting shall be held on the last Sunday of October. The purpose of the meeting is to elect elders and deacons for the coming year and to transact any other business of the congregation that has been approved by the official board no later than their regular October board meeting. An agenda shall be posted two Sundays prior to the annual meeting.

#### Section 2 – Special Meetings

A special congregational meeting may be called by the elders. All special meetings are subject to at least two weeks prior notice to the congregation. Such notice shall include the purpose for which the meeting is called.

#### Section 3 – Congregational Voting

Voting on all issues shall be by official written ballot. Absentee voting shall not be permitted. An abstaining vote shall not be considered as any vote.

**Constitution and By-Laws**  
Delaware Christian Church  
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Active members eighteen (18) years of age and older shall be eligible to vote at congregational meetings. A member shall be considered inactive if they have not attended services in a ninety (90) day period ranging from one-hundred and twenty (120) to thirty (30) days prior to any congregational meeting. At all congregational meetings, a majority of members eligible to vote must be present to constitute a quorum. Unless otherwise stated by these by-laws, a majority vote of the eligible members present shall be necessary and sufficient to pass a measure.

**Article VIII – Finances**

All Funds of the congregation shall be secured by free-will offerings and gifts and not by competitive means such as suppers, bazaars, socials, or rummage sales.

Unless otherwise designated all offerings and gifts shall be placed in the general fund. Designated offerings and gifts (e.g. missions, building) shall be placed in specially marked funds. Missionary funds shall be generated by faith promise offerings.

**Article IX – Amendments**

With exception of Articles II and III, the balance of this constitution and by-laws may be amended by approval of the elders and a 2/3-majority vote of eligible voters present at any regular annual or special congregational meeting. A notice giving the proposed amendment(s) must be presented to the membership at least two (2) Sundays prior to said annual or special meetings.

**Article X – Parliamentary Authority**

Unless otherwise stated in these by-laws, when necessary, Robert's Rules of Order shall be used to conduct all business meetings of the church.

(Revised Oct. 1980)  
(Revised Oct. 1985)  
(Revised Oct. 1990)  
(Revised Oct. 1996)