

THE CONSTITUTION OF
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
LAWRENCE, KANSAS

I. Name

The corporate name of this organization shall be First Christian Church of Lawrence, Kansas. We are affiliated with and committed to the historic principles of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

II. Purpose and Strategy

First Christian Church exists to make disciples of Jesus. To make disciples of Jesus, First Christian's ministries are committed to teaching disciples to obey everything that Jesus commanded (Matt. 28:19), expressed by **Gather, Grow, Go**. We **Gather** to worship and care for our community; we **Grow** to be like Jesus; we **Go** to share the gospel and serve the world. Either or both of the following metrics measure success: (1) baptisms showing conversion (Matt. 28:20) and (2) participation in the various ministries.

III. Statement of Faith

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has no denominational creed or formal doctrinal statement other than "Jesus is Lord." Our local congregation, however, further affirms the following truths as essential.

We believe that God, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe, eternally exists in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe that He revealed Himself through Jesus Christ the Son of God; that Jesus died on the cross for our sins; that by His death Jesus demonstrated God's love and mercy towards us and provided the sole means by which any can be reconciled to Him. That this reconciliation is accomplished by grace through faith alone and not because of any effort of our own. We believe that by Christ's resurrection God demonstrated His power over death; that this power is now at work in us through the Holy Spirit; and that each believer is uniquely gifted by the Spirit for the purpose of making disciples of all nations.

We accept the entire Bible as God's revelation to us, as authoritative in determining what we believe and how we are to live our lives. We acknowledge its testimony that Jesus Christ is Lord over all Creation and Savior of all who voluntarily place themselves under His Lordship. As the fullness of God revealed to us in the flesh, Jesus Christ is the focus of our faith and the source of our unity, uniting us in our common commitment to Him as Lord. As a local community of believers, we acknowledge our unity with other communities of faith worldwide which acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord.

IV. Membership

Membership shall be established by a profession of faith, affirming that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is Savior and Lord, and committing to participate and assist in the mission of First Christian Church. Membership may also be obtained by a Letter of Transfer from the participant's previous church.

Associate Membership may also be established by a profession of faith, affirming that Jesus Christ, the Son of God; as Savior and Lord and commit to participate and assist in the mission of First Christian Church. Associate members may retain their membership in their home church.

V. Government

The government of the church is vested in its membership. The membership elects Elders, and Trustees. The membership of the church hires pastoral staff. Subject to the provisions of these

articles of incorporation and by-laws, the representative governing bodies shall administer the business of this corporation.

VI. Conduct of Business

This church shall have power in its corporate name to buy, own, hold in trust, use, inherit, lease, rent, sell, exchange or dispose of such real and personal property as may be useful and necessary for the furtherance of the Lord's work. It shall also have power to mortgage or encumber all or any part of this church's property, and to borrow or raise money or other assets of any kind, for the furtherance of the Lord's work.

All church property, real and personal, shall be held and all debts shall be contracted by the Trustees in the name of the corporation. Private property of the church members and officers of the corporation shall not be subjected to payment of the corporate debts or liabilities.

VII. Business Meetings

The annual business meeting of this church shall be held between October 15 and November 15 at a time and place designated by the church leadership. Additional regular or special business meetings may be called by the church leadership, or by petition of 10% or more of the members of the church. A quorum for a regular business meeting is 10% of members. Notice of all regular or special business meetings shall be given at regular worship services of the church at least one week before the meeting. All business meetings of the church and church leadership shall be governed by the latest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

VIII. Dissolution

In the event of a dissolution of the corporation, any assets of the corporation remaining after satisfaction of its debts and liabilities, shall be given or transferred to an organization, or organizations as shall be decided by the members of the corporation at the time of winding-up or dissolution, provided that any such organization shall be a not-for-profit charitable organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as such, and which has the preeminent goal of propagating the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as set forth in the Bible.

Such a meeting shall be announced four consecutive Sundays before it is held. A quorum of 50% of the members must attend the meeting of dissolution. A simple majority of the members present must vote in favor of dissolution.

IX. Amendments

Amendments may be proposed by the Personnel Board, or by written petition of 10% or more of members of the church. These articles may be amended at any business meeting of the church by a two-thirds majority of votes cast by a quorum of members, if written notice of the proposed amendment has been distributed at a regular worship service at least two weeks before the vote is taken. A quorum is 20% of the membership.

X. Provision for by-laws

By-laws not in conflict with these articles may be adopted.