

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER CHURCH CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

(as revised July, 2019)

Our Mission ...

It is the mission of CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER to be an instrument of God's grace by leading unbelievers to the Lord Jesus Christ and helping them become all that God intended them to be. Every individual is seen as important to God and ministered to with "Love and Acceptance." It is our mission to Love God, Love Others, and Serve. ARTICLE I NAME This Church shall be called CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER of Merced, California.

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ARTICLE II

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Church is to bring glory to God. (I Corinthians 10:31; Ephesians 1:612)

Section 2. MISSION STATEMENT

The "Church that love built" has developed a process for discipleship around love. The mission of Christian Life Center is to be a fellowship of fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ, growing together as members of His body, filled and empowered by His Spirit to carry on His mission to go into all the world and make disciples who love God, love others, and serve.

It is the mission of CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER to be an instrument of God's grace by converting unbelievers to the Lord Jesus Christ and helping them become all that God intended them to be. Every individual will be seen as important to God and ministered to with "Love and Acceptance."

Section 3. MINISTRY OBJECTIVES

1. EVANGELISM/MISSIONS - "To share the good news of Jesus Christ with as many people as possible in our community and throughout the world." (Matthew 28: 18-20; Acts 1:8; 2 Peter 3:9).
2. EDUCATION - "To help members develop toward full Christian maturity and train them for effective ministry. To promote personal, spiritual growth and discipleship through Bible teaching." (Ephesians 4:11-13; Matthew 28:20; 2 Timothy 2:2).
3. WORSHIP - "To participate in public worship services together and to maintain personal daily devotions." (John 4:24).
4. MINISTRY/SERVICE - "To serve unselfishly, in Jesus' name, meeting the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of those in our Church, community and the world." (1 Peter 4:10-11; Matthew 25:34-40; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Galatians 5:13).
5. FELLOWSHIP - "To encourage, support and pray for each other as members of the family of God. To share our lives together." (1 John 1:7; Acts 2:44-47; Hebrews 10:23-25; Romans 15:5, 7; John 13:34-35). This Church seeks to benefit the people of the Christian Life Center by providing opportunities for spiritual, physical, intellectual, social and cultural development. (Luke 2:52).

Section 4. BASIC BELIEFS

1. The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. Therefore, this doctrinal statement is intended only as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e. that we all speak the same thing). (1 Corinthians 1:10, Acts 2:42). The human phraseology in this statement is not inspired nor contended for, but the truth set forth is held to be essential. No claim is made that it contains all Biblical Truth, only that it covers our present needs as to these fundamental matters.
2. The Scriptures, both the Old and the New Testaments, are inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man; the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct.
3. The One True God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I am," the Creator of all things and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
4. The Scriptures declare the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ and set Him forth as the eternal Son of God. They further declare:
 - a) His Virgin birth.
 - b) His sinless life.
 - c) His miracles.
 - d) His substitutionary work on the cross.
 - e) His bodily resurrection from the dead.
 - f) His exaltation to the right hand of God.

- g) His sending forth the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.
 - h) His promise to personally return and receive His Church unto Himself.
5. Man was created in the image and after the likeness of God and was therefore sinless. However, man by voluntary transgression incurred physical and spiritual death.
 6. Man's only hope of salvation is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. a) Salvation is received through repentance of sin and faith in the complete atoning work of Jesus Christ. b) The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Holy Spirit. The outward evidence is a life of righteousness and true holiness.
 7. The Ordinances of the Church are Baptism in water and Holy Communion.
 - a) Baptism in water is commanded in Scripture. All who repent and believe on Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized.
 - b) The Lord's Supper, consisting of bread and the fruit of the vine, is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a memorial of His suffering and death; a prophecy of His second coming; and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!"
 8. All believers are entitled to and should expect to seek the Baptism in the Holy Spirit according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teachings of Scripture. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service including the bestowing of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry.
 9. Sanctification is the act of separation unto God. It is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to God.
 10. The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the Body of Christ and therefore of the Church.
 11. Healing for the whole person is an integral part of the Gospel and is provided for in the atonement.
 12. The resurrection of the dead in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the Church.
 13. There will be a final judgement when whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life will be consigned to everlasting punishment.

COVENANT

The covenant by which this Church exists, as a distinct body, and which every member accepts is as follows:

- ACKNOWLEDGING JESUS CHRIST TO BE OUR SAVIOR AND LORD;
- ACCEPTING THE HOLY SCRIPTURES, BOTH OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS, AS VERBALLY INSPIRED AS OUR RULE OF FAITH AND PRACTICE;
- RECOGNIZING THE PRIVILEGE AND DUTY OF UNITING OURSELVES FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP;
- PARTICIPATION IN CHRISTIAN ORDINANCES;
- THE PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF HIS CHURCH ON EARTH;

WE DO NOW, in the sight of God and invoking His blessing, solemnly covenant and agree with each other to associate ourselves to be a Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, **as warranted by the Word of God.**

WE AGREE to maintain the instructions of the gospel, to submit ourselves to the orderly administration of the affairs of the Church, and to walk together in brotherly love. We agree and maintain that the covenant of marriage is between a man and a woman only, as written in the Bible (Matt. 19, 4&5). This church will not accept anything other. As such, all weddings are to be considered as Christian Worship Services. Therefore, the pastors and staff of Christian Life Center may only officiate at a wedding ceremony for those couples having a Biblical right to marry.

THIS WE DO, depending upon the aid of our Heavenly Father, who so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son for our salvation, and of Jesus Christ, who has redeemed us with His blood, and of the Holy Spirit, our Comforter and Guide. We understand the basic content of our preaching and teaching to be THE BIBLE, THE WHOLE BIBLE, AND NOTHING BUT THE BIBLE. THE TRUTH THAT SETS US FREE!

AUTHORITY

Section 1. GOD'S WORD

The ultimate authority and total information on what we, as a Church, should do and be is found in God's Word, the Bible (II Timothy 3:16-17). We believe in the verbal inspiration of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, and because they are without error in the original autographs, we accept them as our rule of faith and practice.

Section 2. MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

The members of this Church are responsible to choose their Elders in accordance with Articles VI and VII of this Constitution, and bear responsibility for the stewardship of the facilities and equipment owned by this Church.

Congregational affirmation is necessary for the annual budget and the purchase of real property and buildings which the Church and its related ministries will own and use. Congregational affirmation is necessary to amend this Constitution, to remove an Elder without cause, to dispose of assets, to amend the Articles of Incorporation, to adopt or amend a merger agreement, or to voluntarily elect to wind up and dissolve the Church.

Section 3. INCORPORATION LAWS

The Church is incorporated and chartered under the laws of the State of California.

Section 4. PROPERTY AND FACILITIES

The title to all real property of the Church shall be in the name of the Church and no member or group of members shall have any individual property rights in the assets of the Church. The property and facilities of this Church are dedicated to its purpose and objectives. Upon the liquidation, dissolution, or abandonment of the Church the property, facilities, and funds will not inure to the benefit of any private individual, but rather to a fund, foundation, or corporation organized and operated for like religious or charitable purposes.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this Church shall consist of such persons who have confessed Jesus Christ to be their personal Lord and Savior; have been baptized as a believer in water in the name of the Father, Son, and of the Holy Spirit; and have complied with the following. (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:38-41; 8:26-38).

Section 1. PROCESS

1. Demonstrate a desire to unite with this congregation.
2. Attend "Welcome to Christian Life Center" class(es), and read and sign a Statement of Agreement with this Constitution, a Statement of Faith, and a Church Covenant.
3. Willingly submit to Christ as the Head of the Church, to the leadership of this Church, and to the other members of this fellowship.
4. Complete the membership process prescribed by the Board of Elders.

Section 2. PRIVILEGE

All members have the privilege to participate in the ministries of the Church and those 16 years of age and above have the privilege of participating when an affirmation of the membership is asked for in the business meetings of the Church.

Section 3. EXPECTATIONS

1. WEEKLY WORSHIP: Participate in the weekly worship services on a regular basis.
2. GROUP PARTICIPATION: Join the family life of the Church in a congregational and/or small group context.
3. SPECIFIC MINISTRY: Exercise one's spiritual gift(s) in specific areas of ministry.
4. CHURCH INVOLVEMENT: Support the variety of ministries of the Church through prayer and service.
5. CONSISTENT GIVING: Contribute financially to the Church in a consistent, generous manner.
6. PERSONAL EVANGELISM/WORLD OUTREACH: Share one's faith personally while supporting others who proclaim the gospel around the world.
7. WILLING ACCOUNTABILITY: Respond positively to the leadership of the Board of Elders in matters of Church policy and discipline.
8. PERSONAL GROWTH: Assume the responsibility for one's own spiritual nourishment through personal and corporate Bible study and prayer.

Section 4. DISCIPLINE

The desire of CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER is to edify and exhort our membership to a consistent Christian life style. In the event Church discipline is necessary, the steps as outlined in Matthew 18:15-17 will be pursued with the following understanding:

1. The goal of Church discipline is always to restore our brother.

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2. The spirit of Church discipline is to be one of gentleness, but with authority.
3. The object of Church discipline is to maintain a pure and godly testimony to the world.

Section 5. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Church membership may be terminated for any of the following reasons:

1. Leaving the Church. 2.
Disqualification by the Board of Elders for:
 - a) Failure to meet the criteria set forth in Article V, Section 1 and/or expectations of Article V, Section 3.
 - b) Failure to properly respond to Church discipline.
3. Continued lack of interest and attendance at the services of the Church, illness or old age excluded, when such condition continues for one year without any comment from the member involved, after written and/or verbal notification.
4. Departure from the faith by advocating, teaching, or distributing literature contrary to the Church's Statement of Faith.
5. Continuance in sinful practices without repentance.
6. The member's life and conduct is not in accordance with the membership covenant in such a way that the member hinders the ministry of the Church in the community.
7. Death of the member. Such action of dismissal shall be made in harmony with the steps outlined in Matthew 18:15-17; removal from Church membership may take place upon the decision of the Board of Elders.

Section 6. TRANSFERABILITY OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership in Christian Life Center of Merced is not transferable to any other person or entity.

ARTICLE VI

CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Section 1. GOVERNING BODY

The governing body of the Church will be a Board of Elders which will function in legal matters as a Board of Directors.

Section 2. ELDERS

1. Elders are nominated by the Board of Elders and affirmed by the members according to the qualifications of 1 Timothy 3: 1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Elder candidates must be members for at least one year prior to taking office. All nonaffirmation votes will be followed up by the Elders.

2. Elders are responsible for the oversight and direction of all matters of Church life and practice. (I Timothy 3:4-5; 5:17) Fifty percent plus one of the Elders will constitute a quorum.

3. Corporate officers shall be appointed from the Board of Elders.

4. Eldership may be terminated by:
 - a) Leaving the Church.
 - b) Resignation.
 - c) Disqualification by the remainder of the Board of Elders for:
 - i. Failure to maintain scriptural standards of character.
 - ii. Failure to discharge duties.
 - iii. Failure to maintain Church Membership (i.e., membership terminated).
5. The Senior Pastor of the Church will serve as an ex-officio voting member of the Board of Elders. In the absence of the Senior Pastor, the Associate Pastor, or other designated CLC Pastor will act as the ex-officio
6. The maximum number of permanent members of the Board of Elders shall not exceed ten (10).

Section 3. ELDER MENTORING (Temporary Elders)

1. The Board of Elders may also recommend persons to serve as temporary members to the Board of Elders.
2. There shall be no more than two Persons serving as temporary elders at any one time.
3. The term of office for temporary members of the Board of Elders shall be for six months.
4. No person shall be appointed as a temporary elder for more than two consecutive terms.

Section 4. POWERS OF ELDERS

Subject to the limitations of the Articles of Incorporation, other sections of this Constitution and California law, all powers of the Church shall be exercised by or under the authority of, and the business of the Church shall be controlled by, the Board of Elders. Without limiting the general powers, and subject to affirmation of the Church membership as set forth in Article IV, Section 2, the Board of Elders shall have the following powers:

1. To conduct, manage and control the affairs and business of the Church; and make such rules and regulations not inconsistent with law, the Articles of Incorporation, or this Constitution, to effect same. 2. To borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purpose of the Church and for that purpose to cause to be executed and derived in the Church name, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, deeds of trust, mortgages, pledges, hypothecations, or other evidences of debt and securities.
3. To remove fellow Elders by a vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the permanent members of the Board of Elders.

4. To select, discipline, and/or remove an officer of either the Board of Elders or the Church.
5. To prescribe such powers and duties for such officers, agents and employees as are not inconsistent with law, the Articles of Incorporation, or this Constitution; and to fix their compensation.

6. To Establish policy for the Board of Elders and/or the Church.
7. To amend this Constitution or the Articles of Incorporation of the Church.

Section 5. TERM OF OFFICE

There shall be two classifications of Elders, that is, Permanent and Temporary. Permanent members of the Board of Elders shall have a perpetual term of office which shall continue until he/she ceases to act as such Elder by reason of his/her death, resignation or removal as herein set forth. Only Permanent Elders shall be entitled to vote on that business or exercise those powers as set forth in items (3) through (7) of Section 4, above. Temporary Elders shall have a term of office of six (6) months, at which time said Temporary Elder's term of office shall automatically terminate. No Temporary Elder shall be appointed or elected for more than two (2) consecutive six (6) month terms of office. All temporary Elders shall complete two (2) consecutive temporary terms prior to being appointed to a Permanent Member position. Elders leaving the Elder Board (excluding a sanctioned sabbatical) must go through the process of nomination, application, and interview by the Elder Board and affirmation from the congregation in order to return to the Board of Directors/Elders.

Temporary Elders shall not vote on that business nor exercise those powers as set forth in (3) through (7) of Section 4, above. In all other respects, except as limited by the Articles of Incorporation, other sections of this Constitution or California law, the powers, rights, duties and responsibilities of the Permanent Elders and the Temporary Elders shall be the same.

Section 6. PLACE OF MEETING

Regular meetings of the Board of Elders shall be held at any place or video conferencing within the State that has been designated from time to time by resolution by the Board of Elders, or by written consent of all voting members of the Board. In the absence of this designation, regular meetings shall be held at the principal office of the Church. Special meetings of the Board may be held either by video conferencing or at an Elder Board designated location or at the principal office.

Section 7. ORGANIZATION MEETING

Immediately following each annual meeting of members, the Board of Elders shall hold an annual meeting for the transaction of its business. No notice of such organization meeting need be given.

Section 8. OTHER REGULAR MEETINGS

Other regular meetings of the Board of Elders shall be held without call on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 P.M., provided however, should said date fall on a legal holiday, then the meeting shall be held at the same time on the following Monday. Notice need not be given of any regular meeting.

Section 9. SPECIAL MEETINGS

Special meetings of the Board of Elders for any purpose or purposes may be called at any time by the President or by any three (3) Elders. Written notice of the time and place of special meetings shall be delivered personally to each Elder or sent to each Elder by text or email. The notice shall be

electronically communicated using phone number on file as it is shown on the records of the Church and at least seven (7) days before the time of the holding of the meeting.

The transactions of special meetings of the Board of Elders, however called and noticed and wherever held, shall be as valid as though a meeting had been held after regular call and notice, if a quorum is present, or if either before or after the meeting each of the Elders not present signs a written waiver of notice or a consent to hold the meeting or an approval of the minutes. All such waivers, consents, or approvals shall be filed with the Church records or made a part of the minutes of the meeting.

Section 10. ACTION WITHOUT MEETING

Any action by the Board of Elders may be taken without a meeting if all members of the Board, individually or collectively, consent in writing to said action. Such written consent or consents shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Elders.

Section 11. COMPENSATION

The Elders shall receive no compensation for their services as Elders, except that nothing herein shall prevent the minister or pastor of the Church from receiving reasonable compensation for his services in such religious capacity.

Section 12. OFFICERS

The officers of this Church shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, and such other officers as the Board of Elders may in its discretion from time to time appoint. One person may hold two or more offices, except those of President and Secretary.

Officers shall be chosen annually by the Board of Elders at the beginning of the fiscal year in the month of July, and each such officer shall hold office until he resigns or is removed or is otherwise disqualified to serve, or until his successor shall be elected and qualified, whichever occurs first. Officers appointed at the discretion of the Board shall serve such terms, have such authority and perform such duties as are provided in this Constitution or as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board of Elders. Any officer may be removed, either with or without cause, by a majority vote of the Permanent Elders then in office. Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board of Elders or to the President or to the Secretary of the Church. Any such resignation shall take effect at the date of the receipt of such notice or at any later time specified therein, and, unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of the resignation by the Board shall not be necessary to make it effective.

ARTICLE VII

ORGANIZATIONS AND MEETINGS

Section 1. ORGANIZATION REQUIREMENTS

1.

Only those organizations that are approved by the Board of Elders of the Church shall be recognized as a part of our Church program and ministry.

2. These organizations have no authority in themselves other than that authority delegated to them by the Board of Elders.

3. All organizations must be committed to the purpose and objectives of the Church and be supportive of our "Statement of Faith."

Section 2. USE OF FACILITIES

No meetings, gatherings, events, or activities of individuals, organizations or group of persons not directly affiliated with the Church shall be conducted in the facilities of our Church without the express permission of the Board of Elders. The use of all church property and facilities will and must be used only for Christian functions, or those activities not contrary to our bylaws, and are based on the Bible and Christian Life Center beliefs.

Section 3. BUSINESS MEETINGS

1. The fiscal year of the Church shall be July 1st – June 30th.

2. The annual business meeting of the Church shall be held in July of each year at a time determined by the Board of Elders. Agenda items for the Annual Business meeting must be submitted to the Board of Elders no less than six weeks prior to the annual meeting.

3. A special business meeting of the Church may be called by the Board of Elders. At least two weeks in advance of the special meeting, a public announcement will be made from the pulpit during the regular Sunday A.M. services of the Church and put in the bulletin and communicated to the congregation using current forums both written and social media on the same day, specifying the time, location and agenda.

4. At any Church business meeting, the members present shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. There shall be no votes by proxy.

5. Except as otherwise set forth herein, a majority affirmation of the members present at any business meeting shall prevail. The manner in which the affirmation is taken shall be at the option of the Elders leading the meeting. All non-affirmations will be followed up by the Elders.

6. In case of questions regarding parliamentary procedure, "Roberts Rules of Order" shall be used as a guideline but shall not be considered binding upon the Elders or the will of the people.

7. The president or a member of the Board of Elders designated by the president shall moderate the business meetings of the Church.

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds affirmation of the members present at a duly called Church business meeting; provided notice of the meeting has been given by public announcement in the regular services of the Church, at least two weeks in advance, stating the time, location and agenda.

ARTICLE IX

MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1. EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS

The Board of Elders, except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, may by resolution authorize any officer or agent of the Church to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Church, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. Unless so authorized by the Board of Elders, no officer, agent or employee shall have any power or authority to bind the Church by any contract or engagement or to pledge its credit or to render it liable pecuniary for any purpose, in any amount. Except as otherwise specifically determined by resolution of the Board of Elders, or as otherwise provided by law, checks, drafts, promissory notes, orders of payments of money and other evidences of debt of the Church shall be signed by two members of the Board of Elders to be valid and negotiable.

Section 2. DEPOSITS OF FUNDS

All funds of the Church shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the Church in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as the Board of Elders may select.

Section 3. INSPECTION OF CHURCH CONSTITUTION (BYLAWS)

For legal purposes, this Constitution shall serve as the bylaws of the corporation (Church). The Church shall keep in its principal office the original or a copy of this Constitution, as amended or otherwise altered to date, which shall be open to inspection by the members' at all reasonable times during office hours.

Unless the context otherwise requires, the general provisions, rules of construction and definitions contained in the California General Nonprofit Corporation Law shall govern the construction of this Constitution.

ARTICLE X

MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS

Section 1. MINISTRY DESCRIBED

Recognition of candidates for the ministry in the fellowship of Christian Life Center shall be granted to men or women who demonstrate a worthy response to an evident call to service and who have been filled with the Holy Spirit. They shall receive recognition according to the following classification:

- a) Specialized Ministers are persons who show a commitment to devote their time to a specialized ministry such as Visitation, Music, Christian Education, Youth, etc.
- b) Licensed Ministers are persons who have had some experience in the work of the Lord and purpose to give themselves wholly to the Ministry of the Word. They shall prove this purpose by submitting themselves to such preparation as may be required by the Board of Elders.

Section 2. QUALIFICATIONS

1.

Basic qualifications, which shall be required for all degrees of Ministry, shall include:

- a) A scriptural born again experience and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit according to the teachings of the Scriptures.
- b) A call of God to the ministry evidenced by a personal conviction, confirmed by the work of the Spirit, and recognized by the congregation of Christian Life Center.
- c) A blameless Christian life and a good report of those who are outside the Church.
- d) A thorough understanding of, and agreement with, the doctrinal position required by the Board of Elders.
- e) An active loyalty to Christian Life Center.
- f) An evident determination to study the Word of God, taking advantage of every means available for the improvement and development of his or her ministry.
- g) A readiness to seek and receive the counsel of the pastoral staff.

2. Specific Qualifications: In all cases, applicants shall be expected to have cooperated fully with any plan for study which the Board of Elders shall require. Credentials shall be granted only after the requirements have been fulfilled.

Where ordination is sought, a written and oral examination must be taken and approval granted by a unanimous vote of the Board of Elders.

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1. EVANGELISM/MISSIONS - "To share the good news of Jesus Christ with as many people as possible in our community and throughout the world." (Matthew 28: 18-20; Acts 1:8; 2 Peter 3:9).
2. EDUCATION - "To help members develop toward full Christian maturity and train them for effective ministry. To promote personal, spiritual growth and discipleship through Bible teaching." (Ephesians 4:11-13; Matthew 28:20; 2 Timothy 2:2).
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