

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

1. **Voting Procedure Changes – Quorum change**
2. **Updated Language/Procedures** – Language change on “annual financial ministry plan” vs. “annual budget.” Deleted requirement for administrative staff to be members of the church.

BYLAWS of CHRIST FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Adopted by the membership September 10, 2017

*Updated by the membership on February 4, 2018, May 6, 2018, August 4, 2019, May 26, 2020,
February 23, 2022.*

Preamble

We declare and establish this document to be the bylaws which shall govern the operation of Christ Fellowship Church of North Atlanta, Inc. as it operates for its intended purpose of glorifying God through the gospel, in community, and on mission.

Article I. Name and Powers

Section 1 - Name

The body will be known as Christ Fellowship Church of North Atlanta, Inc. and is henceforth referenced as “Christ Fellowship Church”.

Section 2 – Powers

The church is a non-profit corporation and will have all the powers, duties, authorizations and responsibilities as provided in the Georgia Non-profit Corporation Act.

Article II. Membership

Section 1 – Qualification and Admission of Members

The membership of the church shall consist of persons who profess their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, give evidence of regeneration and have given public testimony to their Christian faith through believer’s baptism. All candidates will be required to complete the membership process and affirm the church covenant by signature. For these Bylaws, membership

is defined as covenant members who have met the above requirements, and the terms “covenant members,” “members” and “membership” are used interchangeably herein.

Section 2 – Termination of Membership

Membership shall be terminated in the following ways: (1) proof of membership in another church, (2) exclusion of the member as a result of church discipline by action of this church, (3) death of the member, (4) non-attendance in church gatherings for one year, or (5) voluntary resignation. The church shall have the authority to refuse a member’s voluntary resignation or transfer of membership to another church if it is necessary to proceed with church discipline.

Section 3 – Discipline and Restoration

Members of the church are expected to conduct their lives in accordance with biblical standards of holiness as they grow to become more like Christ. When a member knowingly, blatantly and publicly ignores the direct commands and prohibitions of Scripture, principles of discipline and restoration will be applied. These principles are found in passages such as Matthew 7:1-5, 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Galatians 6:1-2; and 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15. Corrective discipline will be handled by the elders who will determine whether a matter should be brought before the covenant membership for action.

Article III. Meetings

Section 1 – Worship Meetings

The church shall meet regularly for worship on Sunday. The church may also meet at other times as authorized by the elders.

Section 2 – Stewardship Meeting

The church shall hold an annual meeting for covenant members for the purpose of presenting the approved ~~annual financial ministry plan~~ annual budget that was prepared and affirmed by the elders.

Section 3 – Member Meetings

The elders may call regular meetings to foster fellowship among covenant members outside of the Sunday worship services. They may also call special meetings to consider matters of a special nature or significance, including matters of discipline. Proper communication of the matter will be disseminated to the church body in order to allow ample time for intercessory prayer, the membership to ask questions, provide feedback, and express confidence and support for decisions recommended by the elders. An elder will lead the meeting.

Section 4 – Affirmation by the Membership

Votes on items below must first be approved by the elders and then brought to the congregation. Affirmation shall be a 2/3 vote ~~by at least a 51% quorum~~ of the covenant membership **present in the meeting. The elders may choose to allow absentee voting.** Voting members shall be those covenant members of 16 years old or older. The membership will be asked to affirm the recommendations of the elders for the following items:

- Capital purchases, building or indebtedness activities where the value exceeds 10 percent of the ~~annual financial ministry plan~~ annual budget
- Hiring or firing of lead pastor
- Deacon and Elder selection
- Dismissal of elders and deacons
- Changes to the church bylaws
- Changes to the Statement of Faith
- Changes to the Membership Covenant
- Changes to the Elder Covenant
- Other items the elders believe to be of significant importance
- Exclusion of a member by action of the church

Section 4– Meeting Minutes

Minutes of member meetings shall be maintained indefinitely.

Article IV. Officers

Section 1 – Summary

The church will have two biblical offices within the local church: elders and deacons. The elders may also choose to appoint ministry teams and hire administrative staff for the purposes of fulfilling the mission.

Section 2 – Elders

4.2.1 – Responsibilities and Qualifications

As used in Scripture, the term *elder* is synonymous with *pastor* and *overseer*. The elders will be responsible for the oversight of the church and its ministries. They will meet regularly for prayer, personal accountability, and the fulfillment of their ministry responsibilities. The elders are responsible for leading the church to function as a New Testament church. They will oversee the teaching ministry of the church, as well as the administration of the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper. The elders shall be covenant members of the church. The elders of the church shall also be referred to as the Elder Council and be comprised of "staff elders" and "lay elders," where staff denotes those compensated by the church and lay denotes those not compensated by the

church. The staff and lay elders shall have equal authority but differing responsibilities as determined by the Elder Council. The staff elders will meet more often as necessary than the whole Elder Council for administration of the church. Lay elders will be elected to a three-year term with the option to serve a second term with the church's affirmation. After a lay elder has served two consecutive terms, he may only be elected to the office of elder again after one year. Staff elders are not subject to term limits.

Elders will be men of prayer and the Word. Their qualifications are defined by specific Scripture passages in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Timothy 5:17, and 1 Peter 5:1-4. They must also affirm the Elder Covenant. If at any time an elder is not fulfilling his role, fails to meet the biblical qualifications, or no longer desires to serve, the other elders along with the covenant members will evaluate the situation. If necessary, the elders will recommend steps to be taken and ask the membership for affirmation. The membership may provide input about an elder's lifestyle and performance according to biblical qualifications at any time in accordance with 1 Timothy 5:19-20.

The elders shall serve as the Directors of the Corporation and are referred to in the Articles of Incorporation as the "Board of Elders". "Board of Elders" shall be synonymous with "Board of Directors". When signatures of the Directors of the Corporation are needed to transact business, the signatures of at least two active elders reflecting the unity of the elders shall represent the Corporation. Prior affirmation of the membership will be obtained where necessary according to Article 4, Section 3. The elders may also choose to elect officers from within their membership if they so choose. Each year, the lay elders shall prepare the ~~annual financial ministry plan~~ ~~annual budget~~ and approve it by a 2/3 vote. They shall then present it to the congregation at the annual stewardship meeting.

4.2.2 – Selection

If the current elders feel there is a need for additional elders, they will initiate a search for men who meet the biblical qualifications. Covenant members may also recommend candidates. The number of elder candidates presented to the congregation will depend on the needs of the church. Open elder positions are to be affirmed by the covenant members.

4.2.3 – Staff Elders

4.2.3.1 – Lead Pastor

The lead pastor shall be an elder. He may also be referred to as the pastor for preaching and vision. He shall perform the duties of an elder described above and shall be recognized by the church as particularly called and gifted to the full-time ministry of preaching and teaching. He is responsible for giving oversight to the various ministries of the church, leading the staff and proposing the ~~annual financial ministry plan~~ ~~annual budget~~ to the lay elders for their review and approval. The lead pastor, insofar as the governance of this church is concerned, will be accountable to the lay elders. Compensation for lead pastor shall be determined by the lay elders.

4.2.3.1 – Associate Pastors

The church may call additional pastors whose relationship to the lead pastor is that of associate. An associate pastor shall be an elder. He shall perform the duties of an elder described above and shall be recognized by the church as particularly called and gifted to the full-time ministry of preaching and teaching. Associate Pastors are given responsibility for oversight of various ministries of the church for which they have been hired and to which they have been assigned. Associate pastors, insofar as the governance of this church is concerned, will be accountable to the lead pastor. Compensation for associate pastors shall be determined by the lead pastor.

Section 3 – Deacons

4.3.1 – Responsibilities and Qualifications

As used in Scripture, the term *deacon* means minister or servant. The deacons, under the leadership of the elders, will serve in areas where ministering to the needs of the church is of primary importance.

Deacons will be believers of spiritual maturity and wisdom, who demonstrate a servant spirit. Their qualifications are defined by specific Scripture passages in Acts 6:1-7 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13. If at any time a deacon is not fulfilling his or her role, fails to meet the biblical qualifications, or no longer desires to serve, the elders will evaluate the situation. If necessary, the elders will recommend steps to be taken and ask the membership for affirmation. Deacons will be elected to a two-year term with the option to serve a second and third term with the church's affirmation. After a deacon has served three consecutive terms, he or she may only be elected to the office of deacon again after one year.

4.3.2 – Selection

As the need for deacons arises, the elders will initiate an active search for men and women who meet the biblical qualifications. Covenant members may also recommend candidates. The elders will examine each candidate to determine if they meet the biblical qualifications and will present them to the congregation for affirmation. The filling of open deacon positions is to be affirmed by the covenant members.

Section 4 – Ministry Teams

The elders may choose to create various ministry teams for the fulfillment of the church's mission. The elders will assign a leader for the oversight of the team. The leader may then appoint a team to fulfill the assigned mission. Both the leader and the team are to be covenant members of the church. Ministry teams, insofar as the governance of this church is concerned, will be accountable to the elders. Elders may remove a ministry team or ministry team leader at any point in time.

Section 5 – Administrative Staff

The administrative staff shall consist of those employees who assist the elders. ~~Administrative staff shall be covenant members of the church.~~ Administrative staff, insofar as the

governance of this church is concerned, will be accountable to the lead pastor. Compensation for administrative staff shall be determined by the lead pastor.

Article V. Designated Funds

From time to time the church, at the discretion of the elders, may establish various designated funds to accomplish specific purposes. Contributions to these established funds shall be used for the intended purposes. Contributions marked with any other designation will not create a financial obligation to use the contribution for a particular purpose, but will be deemed as advisory rather than mandatory in nature.

Article VI. Other Items

All other items not specifically covered by these Bylaws will be governed by the policies and procedures of the church

Article VII. Amendments

Recommendation for amendments to the Bylaws may be brought to the elders by the covenant membership. After prayerful consideration by the elders, amendments to the Bylaws may be presented at a special called covenant member meeting provided each proposed amendment has been presented to the membership in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. Amendments to the Bylaws shall require a 2/3 vote ~~by at least a 51% quorum~~ of the covenant membership ~~present in the meeting. The elders may choose to allow absentee voting.~~