

CHURCH in the VALLEY

2241 EVERETT ROAD ♦ PENINSULA, OH 44264
330-657-2200

Bylaws

PREAMBLE

We, the members of Church in the Valley (Everett Church of Christ), an Ohio not-for-profit corporation at Peninsula, Ohio desiring to declare our purpose, to make clear the basis of government, and to protect the interest of our congregation do hereby adopt these Bylaws effective 1993. Revisions were made and approved by the congregation in January, 1999. Revisions were made and approved by the congregation on December 7, 2008. Revisions were made and approved by the congregation on May 3, 2009.

ARTICLE 1: Name, Purpose, and Nature

Section A: Name

The name of this congregation shall be Church in the Valley (Everett Church of Christ) at Peninsula, Ohio.

Section B: Purpose

The purpose of this congregation shall be to glorify God through Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son. To this end, we shall lead people to an obedient faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, committing them actively to His Church and helping them grow in grace and knowledge of Christ that they may know and do His Will.

Section C: Nature

Part 1: This congregation recognizes the Bible as the inerrant and inspired Word of God and the New Testament as its authority in matters pertaining to the church and the Christian life.

Part 2: This is a locally autonomous, totally independent congregation and is now and shall be in the future beyond the control of any and all real, actual, or advisory religious groups, organizations, or denominations of local, state, national, or worldwide scope.

ARTICLE II: Membership

Section A: Terms of Membership

Part 1: Every sincere seeker as a disciple of Jesus Christ is welcomed into the worship and study fellowship of the congregation to continue his/her quest as a disciple of Jesus to discover His Will for his/her life.

Part 2: As each disciple learns more about Christ and His will, he or she will be encouraged to commit to the Biblical teaching which enables one to be added to the Body of Christ. The

congregation has no requirement of its own for membership, but merely echoes those of Christ for every disciple. One shall be encouraged to confess Christ as the divine Son of God and personal Savior, repent of sins, and accept the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus in baptism (immersion in water) as the expression of faith in the power of Jesus to forgive sins and give new birth to the believer according to the command of Jesus. The Lord then adds that disciple to the family of God (the church) with all the privileges afforded a joint-heir with Jesus Christ.

Part 3: Any person desiring to be a member of this congregation who has fulfilled the requirements stated in Part 2 must petition the senior minister or an elder for congregational membership. The senior minister or elder shall then respond to the petition. After approval, the new member shall be publicly introduced to the congregation.

Section B: Maintenance of Active Membership

Part 1: Members shall be considered Active Members by supporting this church in the expression of their faith in Jesus Christ. The list of such members and their addresses shall herein be known as the Active Member Roll.

Part 2: If a member has not fulfilled the requirements of active Membership (Part 1) over a period of one year, the Elders may institute a plan to encourage the return of the member and/or to determine the member's desire to remain as an active member of the congregation. Should inactivity continue during a period of sixty (60) days, said member's name may be transferred from the Active Member Roll to the Inactive Member Roll. Notification of this action shall be sent to said member from the Elders by mail. For purpose of clarification, this section is to exclude members who for reasons beyond their control have not been in regular attendance.

Part 3: An inactive member may be reinstated to the Active Member Roll after a sixty (60) day period of fulfilling the requirements of active membership (Part 1). Such reinstatement is to be determined by the Elders.

Section C: Voting Privileges

Part 1: Voting privileges shall be accorded to those who have been on the Active Member Roll for sixty (60) days and have passed their eighteenth birthday. Voting shall be conducted by written ballot in a manner designed to afford confidentiality.

Part 2: Absentee Ballots

- a. A request for an Absentee ballot is to be made verbally or in writing to the Secretary of the Corporation by the Active Member who is unable to attend the annual meeting, or any meeting requiring a vote of the congregation, as called by the Board of Trustees or Elders.
- b. Numbered Absentee Ballots will be provided by the Secretary of the Corporation who will maintain record of distribution and return of the individual ballots. All ballots must be returned to the Secretary of the Corporation by 6:00 PM of the day immediately preceding the voting day.

Section D: Removal of Membership

Part 1: Membership in this congregation may be withdrawn at the request of the member or at death of the member.

Part 2: Any member, upon unanimous vote of the Elders and Senior Minister, after conferring with the congregation, may be removed from the rolls of the church membership for the following reasons.

- a. Unbelief in Jesus Christ as the divine Son of God come in the flesh (II Corinthians 6: 14-18, II John 7:11).
- b. Gross immoral behavior for which one does not repent (I Corinthians 5: 9-14).
- c. Causing of divisions and offenses among brethren (Romans 16: 17-18: Titus 3: 10-11).
- d. Refusal to work in order to supply the needs of his family (II Thessalonians 3: 6-15, I Timothy 5: 8). The vote for removal may occur after church discipline is administered according to the scriptures.

After a spirit of repentance is demonstrated, said dismissed member may be reinstated to membership by petitioning for membership as stated in Article 2, Section A, Part 3.

Part 3: Any member whose name continues on the Inactive Member roll for three consecutive years may be removed from the membership of the congregation.

ARTICLE III: Board of Trustees & Corporate Officers

Section A1: Board of Trustees

The church shall have a Board of Trustees all of whom must be active members of the congregation and elected by a majority of the active members who are either present at the annual meeting or who vote by Absentee Ballot per Section C Part 2. There will be a maximum of nine and a minimum of three Trustees.

1: Qualifications for Trustees

- a. Trustees shall be an Active Member of Church in the Valley for a minimum of one year.
- c. No immediate family members; spouses, children, siblings, shall be on the Board of Trustees at the same time.
- d. No member of the Pastor's immediate family may be a Trustee.

Section A2: Corporate Officers

The church shall have the following Corporate Officers all of whom must be active members of the congregation and elected by a majority of the active members who are either present at the annual meeting or who vote by Absentee Ballot per Section C Part 2:

1. President
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer

One person may serve in two Corporate Offices at the same time. One person may be a Trustee and a Corporate Officer at the same time.

Section B: Responsibility of Officers

1. The Trustees (the Board) shall have responsibility for conducting the business affairs of the church, general charge of its property and control of its administration except as may be reserved to the minister(s), Elders and Deacons in these Bylaws.

The Board of Trustees shall select a chairman from its members and shall conduct its affairs in meetings which shall be open to any active member. The Board shall take action(s) only on the vote of a majority of its membership present at such meeting. A quorum for all board meetings shall be 1/2 of the board membership but never less than three.

2. The President shall have and exercise general charge and supervision of the business affairs of the church, subject to direction by the Board of Trustees and perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Trustees.
3. The Secretary shall have charge of all corporate books and records; attend and keep the minutes of all the meetings of the Board of Trustees; keep a record of all persons who are members of the church, showing their places of residence; and in general, perform all the duties incident to the office of secretary, subject to direction by the Board of Trustees, and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Trustees.
4. The Treasurer shall have the care and custody of all church monies and funds; shall render a statement of the receipts and disbursements at the annual meeting of all active members, and at such other times as may be appropriate; prepare reports for the Internal Revenue Service and any other government agencies; in general, perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer, subject to direction by the Board of Trustees; and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Trustees.

Section C1: Term of office for Trustees

1. The term of office for all Trustees shall be two years.
2. No Trustee may serve more than two consecutive two-year terms.
3. Should a vacancy occur in any such office, the office will remain vacant, unless the vacancy brings the Board of Trustees to two members, in which case a special election will be held to fill the vacancy.

Section C2: Term of office for Corporate Officers

1. The term of office for all Corporate Officers (President, Secretary, Treasurer) shall be two years.
2. There is no limitation on the number of consecutive terms Corporate Officers may serve.
3. Should a vacancy occur in any Corporate Office, the Board of Trustees may appoint a replacement to serve the remainder of such officer's unexpired term.

ARTICLE IV: Elders, Deacons, and Deaconesses

Section A: Elders, Deacons, and Deaconesses

The church shall have the following spiritual leaders and servants, all of whom must be active members of the congregation.

1. Elders (spiritual leaders)
2. Deacons (servants)
3. Deaconesses (servants)

The Bylaws do not require a minimum or maximum number for such areas of services; but rather rely on the leading of the Holy Spirit, the wisdom of the congregation and the desire of its active members to produce appropriately qualified individuals.

Section B: Qualifications

1. Elders shall have the qualifications stated in I Timothy 3: 1-17 and Titus 1: 5-9.
2. Deacons shall have the qualification stated in I Timothy 3: 8-13 and Acts 6: 3.
3. Deaconesses must be willing to serve.

Section C: Responsibilities

Part 1: The Elders shall promote the growth and welfare of the congregation by giving spiritual oversight to its members. They shall further give thoughtful consideration to the policies of the congregation that will enable the church to fulfill its purpose (Article I, Section B). They shall give guidance, counsel and support to the minister(s) in all spiritual matters of the congregation. The Elders shall select a chairman from their members.

Part 2: The Deacons shall be servants of the Church. They shall assist the minister(s) and Elders in all areas of the congregational administration. They shall also administer an active benevolence program for members and non-members as needed. The Deacons shall select a chairman from their members.

Part 3: The Deaconesses shall be servants of the Church.

Section D: Selection

Part 1: All Elders, Deacons, and Deaconesses must be active members of the congregation and must desire to serve in such position.

Part 2: A prospective candidate must make such desire to serve known to one or more of the Elders or the Senior Minister.

Part 3: The present leadership will openly place the desire before the congregation for a period of one month (affirmation period).

- b. Any active member may voice concerns during this period.
- c. Any concerns should be settled by a one-on-one meeting of member and candidate.
- c. If there is no settlement, both members will meet with the Elders and the Senior Minister to determine either approval or withdrawal of candidate's request.

Part 4: Should the candidate's request then be approved and the affirmation period has passed, the installation of officers will be made by a public announcement on the first Sunday of the next calendar quarter.

Section E: Term of Service

1. The term of service for Elders, Deacons, and Deaconesses shall be two years.
2. No Elder, Deacon, or Deaconess may serve more than two consecutive two-year terms.
3. Vacancies in such positions shall be filled in the manner outlined for selection in Article IV, Section D, hereof.

ARTICLE V: Minister(s)

Section A: Duties

Part 1. The Senior Minister shall serve as spiritual leader of the congregation. He shall be an ex-officio member of all organized groups, auxiliaries, committees, and departments sponsored by this congregation. He shall determine the activities of any Associate Minister(s) and any other church employees. The Senior Minister shall work with and report regularly to the Elders and the Board of Trustees on the progress of his responsibilities.

Part 2: The Senior Minister shall be an Elder so long as he is serving as Senior Minister.

Part 3: Associate Minister(s) duties shall be in accord with and complimentary to those of the Senior Minister. The Elders shall work with the Senior Minister in determining the areas in which the Associate Minister(s) shall labor.

Part 4: The Elders, or in the absence of Elders, the Board of Trustees, shall be responsible for designating individuals to perform the duties of the Minister(s) in case of sickness or absence, except where otherwise agreed upon between the Elders or in the absence of Elders, the Board of Trustees, and Minister(s).

Section B: Selection

Part 1: The Minister(s) shall be chosen by the congregation as follows:

- a. The Elders, or in the absence of Elders, the Board of Trustees, shall select a pulpit committee to recommend to the Elders or in the absence of Elders, the Board of Trustees, a prospective minister who the Elders or in the absence of Elders, the Board of Trustees must approve by two-thirds (was previously unanimous) vote of the members serving as Elders, or in the absence of Elders, the Board of Trustees. The prospective minister will be presented to the congregation in accordance with this section.
- b. Only one prospective Minister shall be presented to the congregation at a time. A prospective Minister must fail to receive an accepting vote of the active members before another is called for consideration.

Part 2: The recommendation of the Elders, or in the absence of Elders, the Board of Trustees for a Minister must be accepted by at least two-thirds (was previously 80%) vote of the active members of the congregation who are either present at a regular or special meeting or who vote by Absentee Ballot per Section C Part 2 called for such purpose. Voting shall be by written ballot.

Part 3: The term of the called Minister shall be for an indefinite period and may be terminated by either party upon a 90 day written notice. An annual written statement, setting forth the salary to be paid and other conditions of the call, shall be made in duplicate (One copy for the Minister and one for the congregation) and shall be signed by the chair of the Elders and Trustees, and the Minister.

Section C: Qualifications

Part 1: All Ministers must subscribe to Article I, Section B and C; Article II, Section A, of this Constitution.

Part 2: The Senior Minister shall be a graduate of a college or Bible seminary that the Elders, or in the absence of Elders, the Board of Trustees, deem satisfactory for the purpose of training or shall possess the equivalent knowledge and experience.

Part 3: Other qualifications necessary in order to fulfill the required duties shall be determined by the Elders or in the absence of Elders, the Board of Trustees at the time of selection.

Part 4: All Ministers shall become active members of the congregation upon the assumption of their employment.

Section D: Dismissal:

Recommendation of the Elders or in the absence of Elders, the Board of Trustees, to terminate the Minister's employment shall specify the reasons and must be accepted by a majority of the active membership of the congregation who are either present at a regular or special meeting or who vote by Absentee Ballot per Section C Part 2 called for such purpose. Voting shall be by written ballot.

ARTICLE VI: Committees

Section A: Appointment

Committees may be appointed by the Elders and/or the Board of Trustees for such purpose(s) and for such term(s) as may be determined to be necessary.

Section B: Membership

Committee members shall be appointed for their knowledge or expertise and need not be active members of the congregation.

Section C: Responsibilities

Committees shall report to their appointing body at such times and in such manner as the appointing body may determine to be necessary.

Section D: Term

Committees shall function only for such period of time as may be necessary to accomplish their appointed task.

ARTICLE VII: Annual Meetings

There shall be an annual meeting of the active members during the fourth calendar quarter of each year on a date to be set by the Trustees. Thirty (30) days notice of such meeting shall be posted on the church bulletin board and announced at Sunday Services.

The purpose of this meeting shall be to review the work of the church, to develop fellowship among members, and to develop their united action in planning and carrying forward the programs of this church.

The order of business at the annual meeting shall be as follows:

- Call to order by Chairman of the Board of Trustees
- Minutes of previous annual meeting
- Report of officers
- Reports of Minister(s)
- Reports of committees
- Reports of various church organizations
- Election of Trustees
- Election of Officers
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

ARTICLE VIII: Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended, repealed, or superseded, either in whole or in part, by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of those active members who are either present or who vote by Absentee Ballot per Section C Part 2 at a regular or special meeting of the church membership. The notice of such meeting shall be posted not less than thirty (30) days prior to such meeting, shall state that a change of the Bylaws is proposed and that copies of the changes shall be available for inspection in the church office.

ARTICLE IX: Dissolution

The Corporation may be dissolved, upon the affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of all the active members, taken at the annual meeting of the active members, or upon the written consent of three-fourths (3/4) of the active members. The Board of Trustees shall thereupon take such action as may be necessary to conclude the affairs of the Corporation and to effect the termination of its corporate existence, and shall distribute the property of the Corporation and to effect the termination of its corporate existence, and shall distribute the property of the Corporation to such one or more corporations, trusts or foundations within Summit County, Ohio, organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes, no part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual, and no substantial part of the activities of which is carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, as the Board of Trustees may select.