

# **Bylaws**

## **Christian Truth Ministries, Inc.**

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# **Bylaws**

## **Preamble**

WHEREAS, it is the express purpose of God our Heavenly Father to call out of the world a saved people who shall contribute to the Body of Christ, built and established on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the Chief Cornerstone.

WHEREAS, the members of the Body of Christ are enjoined to assemble themselves together for worship, fellowship, counsel, and instruction in the Word of God and the work of the ministry and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that we recognize ourselves as a body of Christian believers working together for the common purpose of spreading the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and that under the laws of the state of New York, we may exercise all the rights and privileges granted to religious bodies.

## **Male and Female References**

The masculine gender stated within this document shall refer to both men and women.

## **Article I Name**

The name of this corporation shall be Christian Truth Ministries, Inc.

## **Article II Purpose**

The specific purpose for which the corporation is organized is to establish a place of worship, to teach and preach the gospel to all people, to conduct evangelistic and humanitarian outreach, to train and ordain ministers of the gospel and to engage in activities which are necessary, suitable or convenient for the accomplishment of such purposes, or which are incidental thereto or connected therewith, which are consistent with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The corporation is organized exclusively for religious, charitable, educational and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

## **Article III Tenets of Faith**

The human phraseology employed in this statement is not inspired nor contended for, but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full Gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all the truth in the Bible, only that it covers orthodox fundamental matters.

## **The Church and Its Mission**

The Church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her Great Commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22,23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23).

Since God's purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshiped by man, to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, and to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world, the priority reason-for-being of the Assemblies of God as part of the Church is:

- a. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16).
- b. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- c. To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 14:12).
- d. To be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world (Psalms 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

The Church exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason-for-being in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. This experience:

- a. Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Hebrews 2:3,4).
- b. Adds a necessary dimension to a worshipful relationship with God (1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 1 Corinthians 12-14).
- c. Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ and care for the poor and needy of the world (Galatians 5:22-26; Matthew 25:37-40; Galatians 6:10; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11,12; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29).

## **The Family**

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.

### **The Ministry**

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the fourfold purpose of leading the Church in: (1) evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20), (2) worship of God (John 4:23,24), (3) building a Body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11,16), and (4) Meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion (Psalms 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

### **The Lord's Day**

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-12; 28:1ff.; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3,33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1,19-28; Acts 20:7; Romans 14:5-10; I Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16; 3:16; Revelation 1:10.

### **Holy Bible**

The Holy Bible, and only the Bible, is the authoritative Word of God. It alone is the final authority in determining all doctrinal truths. In its original writing, it is inspired, infallible and inerrant (2Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Proverbs 30:5; Romans 16:25-26).

## **Trinity**

There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and co-eternal (I John 5:7; Genesis 1:26; Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19; Luke 1:35; Isaiah 9:6; Hebrews 3:7-11).

### **The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ**

The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare:

- a. His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31,35).
- b. His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22).
- c. His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).
- d. His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
- e. His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:4).
- f. His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9,11; 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:3).

## **Redemption**

Man was created good and upright, but by voluntary transgression he fell; his only hope of redemption is in Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Gen.1:26-31, 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-21).

## **Salvation**

We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ; His death, burial, and resurrection. Salvation is a gift from God, not a result of our good works or of any human efforts (Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:16, 3:8; Titus 3:5; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 16:31; Hebrews 9:22; John 6:44-45).

## **Repentance**

Repentance is the commitment to turn away from sin in every area of our lives and to follow Christ, which allows us to receive His redemption and to be regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Thus, through repentance we receive forgiveness of sins and appropriate salvation (Acts 2:21, 3:19; 1 John 1:9).

## **Sanctification**

Sanctification is the ongoing process of yielding to God's Word and His Spirit in order to complete the development of Christ's character in us. It is through the present ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God that the Christian is enabled to live a godly life (1 Thessalonians 4:3, 5:23; 2 Corinthians 3:18, 6:14-18, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, Romans 8:29, 12:1-2, Hebrews 2:11).

## **Jesus' Blood**

The Blood that Jesus Christ shed on the Cross of Calvary was sinless and is 100% sufficient to cleanse mankind of all sin. Jesus allowed Himself to be punished for both our sinfulness and our sins, enabling all those who believe to be free from the penalty of sin, which is death (1 John 1:7; Revelation 1:5, 5:9; Colossians 1:20; Romans 3:10-12, 23, 5:9; John 1:29).

## **Jesus Christ Indwells All Believers**

Christians are people who have invited the Lord Jesus Christ to come and live inside them by His Holy Spirit. They relinquish the authority of their lives over to him thus making Jesus the Lord of their life as well as Savior. They put their trust in what Jesus accomplished for them when He died, was buried, and rose again from the dead (John 1:12; John 14:17, 23; John 15:4; Romans 8:11; Revelations 3:20).

## **The Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is manifested through a variety of spiritual gifts to build and sanctify the church, demonstrate the validity of the resurrection, and confirm the power of the Gospel. The Bible lists of these gifts are not necessarily exhaustive, and the gifts may occur in various combinations. All believers are commanded to earnestly desire the manifestation of the gifts in their lives. These gifts always operate in harmony with the Scriptures and should never be used in violation of Biblical parameters (Hebrews 2:4; Romans 1:11, 12:4-8; Ephesians 4:16; 2 Timothy 1:5-16, 4:14; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31, 14:1-40; 1 Peter 4:10).

## **Healing of the Sick**

Healing of the sick is illustrated in the life and ministry of Jesus and included in the commission of Jesus to His disciples. It is given as a sign which is to follow believers. It is also a part of Jesus' work on the Cross and one of the gifts of the Spirit (Psalm 103:2-3; Isaiah 53:5; Matthew 8:16-17; Mark 16:17-18; Acts 8:6-7; James 5:14-16; 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28; Romans 11:29).

## **God's Will for Provision**

It is the Father's will for believers to become whole, healthy and successful in all areas of life. But because of the fall, many may not receive the full benefits of God's will while on Earth. That fact, though, should never prevent all believers from seeking the full benefits of Christ's provision in order to better serve others.

1. Spiritual (John 3:3-11; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Romans 10:9-10).
2. Mental and Emotional (2 Timothy 1:7, 2:11; Philippians 4:7-8; Romans 12:2; Isaiah 26:3).
3. Physical (Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:17; 1 Peter 2:24).
4. Financial (Joshua 1:8; Malachi 3:10-11; Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9:6-10; Deuteronomy 28:1-14; Psalm 34:10, 84:11; Philippians 4:19).

## **Resurrection**

Jesus Christ was physically resurrected from the dead in a glorified body three days after His death on the cross. In addition, both the saved and the lost will be resurrected; they that are saved to the resurrection of life and they that are lost to the resurrection of eternal damnation (Luke 24:16, 36, 39; John 2:19-21, 20:26-28, 21:4; Acts 24:15; 1 Corinthians 15:42, 44; Philippians 1:21-23, 3:21).

## **Heaven and Hell**

Heaven is the eternal dwelling place for all believers in the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Matthew 5:3, 12, 20, 6:20, 19:21, 25:34; John 17:24; 2 Corinthians 5:1; Hebrews 11:16; 1 Peter 1:4).

After living one life on earth, the unbelievers will be judged by God and sent to Hell where they will be eternally tormented with the Devil and the Fallen Angels (Matthew 25:41; Mark 9:43-48; Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 14:9-11, 20:12-15, 21:8).

## **Second Coming**

Jesus Christ will physically and visibly return to earth for the second time to establish His Kingdom. This will occur at a date undisclosed by the Scriptures (Matthew 24:30, 26:63-64; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8; Revelation 1:7).

## **Education**

Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is, therefore, a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge. Moreover, the cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian education is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

Deuteronomy 4:1,5,9,14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Job 28:28; Psalms 19:7ff.; 119:11; Proverbs 3:13ff.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7,11; 15:14; Ecclesiastes 7:19; Matthew 5:2; 7:24ff.; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 2:3,8-9; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17; Hebrews 5:12-6:3; James 1:5; 3:17.

## **Stewardship**

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation

to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4,19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21,42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15; Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.

## **Article IV Sacraments**

### **Water Baptism**

Following faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the new convert is commanded by the Word of God to be baptized in water in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38).

### **The Lord's Supper**

A unique time of communion in the presence of God when the elements of bread and grape juice (the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ) are taken in remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 16:16; Acts 8:12, 36-38; 10:47-48; 1 Corinthians 10:16, 11:23-25).

## **Article V Membership**

This church shall maintain a non-voting congregational membership. The Board of Trustees may create a congregational membership program that details the requirements, rights, and responsibilities of membership as well as the procedures for dismissal.

## **Article VI Government**

### **Section 1 Officers**

1. There shall be a Senior Pastor/President.
2. There may be a Vice President.
3. There shall be a Secretary.
4. There shall be a Treasurer.
5. Other individuals may be added as officers as needed.

## **Section 2 Board of Trustees and Voting Power**

1. The Board of Trustees is that group of persons vested with the management of the business and affairs of the corporation.
2. The official Board of Trustees shall consist of individuals listed above and those added by official action of the Board of Trustees. The Board shall consist of at least seven and no more than eleven Trustees. If the Board has seven Trustees, at least five of them shall not be ministers of the gospel or priests of any denomination. If the Board size is ten or eleven, at least a majority of the Trustees shall not be ministers of the gospel or priests of any denomination.
3. The majority of the Board of Trustees shall serve without remuneration. The majority shall also not be comprised of one group whose members are related by blood, business, or marriage.
4. The Senior Pastor/President shall be chairman of the Board of Trustees.
5. Each member of the Board of Trustees shall have equal voting power among all of the other members.
6. A decision by the Board of Trustees is considered valid with a simple majority vote of the Trustees in attendance at a properly called meeting of the Board, including the approval of the Senior Pastor/President, unless otherwise specified in the Bylaws.
7. The Board of Trustees shall adopt a Conflict of Interest Policy to prevent voting by disqualified individuals, as defined in IRC Section 4958(f)(1). All members who are disqualified with respect to a decision shall recuse themselves from the vote.
8. The Board of Trustees shall be authorized to create any additional committees as may be deemed necessary for the management of the corporation.
9. The Senior Pastor/President shall be an ex officio member of every committee and can at his discretion be the chair of such committee at the time of its creation.

## **Section 3 Removal From the Board of Trustees**

Any Trustee may be removed from office with or without cause by a simple majority vote of the Trustees in attendance at a properly called meeting, including the Senior Pastor/President's approval.

The Senior Pastor/President may be removed from office in accordance with Article VII.

The following reasons are considered just cause for the removal of a Trustee:

1. In absentia from three consecutive Board of Trustees meetings;
2. Violation of the mutual interest clause of Article XI;
3. Not acting in the best interests of the organization;

4. Willful nondisclosure of a conflict of interest as interpreted by a majority of the Board of Trustees.

## **Section 4 Vacancies**

In the event of a vacancy on the Board of Trustees, whether due to resignation or removal, the Senior Pastor/President shall be given a reasonable amount of time to nominate an individual deemed qualified in accordance with these Bylaws. The nomination must be approved by a simple majority vote of the Board of Trustees.

## **Section 5 Resignation**

Any Trustee may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board of Trustees. Such resignation shall take effect on the date of the receipt of such notice by the Senior Pastor/President, and acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

# **Article VII Official Functions**

The officers listed below are ultimately responsible to oversee that all listed duties are properly executed. The actual carrying out of necessary actions may be accomplished by any individual whom the Board of Trustees designates.

## **Section 1 Senior Pastor/President Qualifications**

The Senior Pastor/President shall have wisdom in handling the corporation's affairs. He shall be of sound doctrine and good judgment.

### **Duties**

The Senior Pastor/President shall be the leader of the church as provided by the Holy Scriptures.

The Senior Pastor/President shall be chairman of the Board of Trustees and preside over all corporation meetings.

The Senior Pastor/President shall hold the Ecclesiastical Authority and be responsible for the day-to-day decisions in managing the corporation.

### **Term of Office**

The term of office of the Senior Pastor/President shall be reviewed every two years. The number of consecutive terms that he may serve is unlimited. The Board of Trustees must adhere to the provisions set forth in Article X should they choose not to renew his term.

### **Removal**

The Board of Trustees is responsible for providing spiritual covering by prayerfully giving necessary aid, instruction, guidance, protection and correction as well as counsel, wisdom and fellowship to the Senior Pastor/President (Galatians 6:1).

The Board of Trustees may call a meeting into session without the presence of the Senior Pastor/President to conduct an investigation of accusations against him and make a determination as to whether the Senior Pastor/President has committed any of the following accusations which are grounds for dismissal:

- A. Adultery
- B. Embezzlement
- C. Compulsive Lying
- D. Sexual Impurity
- E. Conviction of a felony that is a violation of Scripture
- F. The Senior Pastor/President not acting in the best interest of the church

The Board of Trustees will determine if the Senior Pastor/President is guilty or innocent and whether to discipline or dismiss him from office.

Any action taken by the Board of Trustees concerning the removal of the Senior Pastor/President is valid by a unanimous vote of Trustees in attendance at a properly called meeting of the Board of Trustees.

### **Succession**

The Senior Pastor/President may nominate a successor at any time. The nominee shall be confirmed by simple majority vote of Trustees in attendance at a properly called meeting of the Board of Trustees, after the nomination is made. This person will assume the role of the Senior Pastor/President if the Senior Pastor/President retires, passes away, or is otherwise incapacitated.

### **No Successor Appointed**

Should the Senior Pastor/President fail to appoint a successor, the following shall serve as an order of succession:

1. Vice President
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer

If the retirement, passing, removal, or incapacity of the Senior Pastor/President leaves the Board of Trustees with a vacancy, then the first motion of the person who assumes the role of the Senior Pastor/President through this section, shall be to nominate prospective member(s) of the Board of Trustees. The nominee(s) shall be confirmed by a unanimous vote of the remaining members of the Board who are in attendance at a properly called meeting.

The successor will automatically and immediately become the Senior Pastor/President. In the event the successor is not prepared to assume both the role of the Senior Pastor and that of the President, the Board of Trustees shall be authorized to separate the roles of the Senior Pastor and President by a simple majority vote of the Trustees in attendance at a properly called Board meeting. The Board of Trustees will begin the search for the replacement Senior Pastor, and the successor will assume the role of the President. The Board of Trustees may select an interim Senior Pastor until a permanent replacement is found.

## **Section 2 Vice President**

### **Qualifications**

The Vice President shall have wisdom in handling the corporation's affairs. He shall be of sound doctrine and good judgment.

#### **Duties**

He will serve as chief advisor to the Senior Pastor/President.

He shall carry out the responsibilities that the Senior Pastor/President delegates to him.

#### **Manner of Appointment**

The Senior Pastor/President shall nominate and the Board of Trustees shall confirm the Vice President to office by a simple majority vote of the Trustees in attendance at a properly called meeting.

#### **Term of Office**

The term of office of the Vice President shall be reviewed every two years. The number of consecutive terms that he may serve is unlimited. The Vice President is subject to removal at any time in accordance with Article VI.

## **Section 3 Secretary**

### **Qualifications**

The Secretary shall be a spiritually-minded person and of sound judgment. He must be administratively-minded with the ability to multi-task.

#### **Duties**

By virtue of his office, the Secretary shall keep a true and accurate record of all meetings, including business meetings of the corporation. He shall perform clerical duties and shall be the custodian of all legal documents.

#### **Manner of Appointment**

The Senior Pastor/President shall nominate and the Board of Trustees shall confirm the Secretary to office by a simple majority vote of Trustees in attendance at a properly called meeting.

## **Term of Office**

The term of office of the Secretary shall be reviewed every two years. The number of consecutive terms that he may serve is unlimited. The Secretary is subject to removal at any time in accordance with Article VI.

## **Section 4 Treasurer**

### **Qualifications**

The Treasurer shall be a spiritually minded person and of sound business judgment. He shall be capable of doing the accounting required to maintain the corporation books.

### **Duties**

By virtue of his office, the Treasurer shall keep, in a business-like manner, an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements of monies committed to his trust and shall make reports to be presented during the official Board of Trustees meetings. He shall deposit and make withdrawals of corporate funds in a manner prescribed in Article XX.

### **Manner of Appointment**

The Senior Pastor/President shall nominate and the Board of Trustees shall confirm the Treasurer to office by a simple majority vote of Trustees in attendance at a properly called meeting.

## **Term of Office**

The term of office of the Treasurer shall be reviewed every two years. The number of consecutive terms that he may serve is unlimited. The Treasurer is subject to removal at any time in accordance with Article VI.

## **Section 5 Trustees**

### **Qualifications**

Trustees shall be spiritually-minded persons and of sound business judgment.

### **Duties**

By virtue of their office, Trustees shall carry out the responsibilities that the Senior Pastor/President or Board of Trustees delegate to them.

### **Manner of Appointment**

The Senior Pastor/President shall nominate and the Board of Trustees shall confirm Trustees to office by a simple majority vote of the Trustees in attendance at a properly called meeting.

## **Term of Office**

The term of office of the Trustees shall be reviewed every two years. The number of consecutive terms that a Trustee may serve is unlimited. Trustees are subject to removal at any time in accordance with Article VI.

## **Increasing Number of Trustees**

By majority vote of the Trustees in attendance at a properly called meeting, the Board may be increased in size, not to exceed eleven members. In such event, a certificate shall be created and signed by the Trustees before an officer authorized to take the acknowledgment of deeds of land to be recorded in New York State, providing public notice of the increase. The certificate shall be filed in the office of the secretary of state and also with the clerk of the county in which the church is located. The certificate need not be approved by a justice of the supreme court in the district in which the church is located.

# **Article VIII Meetings**

## **Section 1 Church Services**

In any established place of worship the appointed Pastor will be responsible for regular church services.

## **Section 2 Corporate Meetings**

The corporate year shall coincide with the calendar year, beginning on January 1st and running through December 31st.

Proper notice of ten days shall be given to all Trustees prior to any corporate meeting.

The Senior Pastor/President will call the annual Board of Trustees meeting to discuss the direction of the corporation. The Senior Pastor/President shall set dates and times for other Board of Trustees meetings. A Board meeting can also be called by a majority of the Trustees. The Board of Trustees may have invited guests present at any meeting so long as the Senior Pastor/President has approved it.

The Secretary shall accurately record the minutes of each Board of Trustees meeting. He must then present these minutes at the following Board of Trustees meeting for review by the Board of Trustees and approval by the Senior Pastor/President. Upon approval by the majority of the Board of Trustees in attendance, the minutes shall be adopted, and all policy and procedure in them will continue to be enforced.

## **Section 3 Waiver of Notice**

Attendance of a Trustee at any meeting of the Board of Trustees will constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting except where such Trustee attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting, at the beginning of the meeting, to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened.

## **Section 4 Meetings by Remote Communications Technology**

Subject to the notice provision in Section 2 of this Article, the Trustees may also hold meetings by means of a remote electronic communications system, including but not limited to video or telephone conferencing technology or the Internet, such as Zoom, Google Meeting, FaceTime, Skype, or any combination. This is permissible only if each person entitled to participate in the meeting consents to the meeting being held by means of that system, and the system provides access to the meeting in a manner or using a method by which each person participating in the meeting can communicate concurrently with each other participant. Participation in such a meeting shall constitute presence in person at such meeting, except participation for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business on the ground that the meeting is not properly called or convened.

## **Section 5 Action by Unanimous Written Consent Without Meeting**

Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board of Trustees under any provision of law may be taken without a meeting, if all members of the Board of Trustees shall individually or collectively consent in writing to such action. Such written consent or consents shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Trustees. Such action by written consent shall have the same force and effect as the unanimous vote of the Trustees. Any certificate or other document filed under any provision of law which relates to action so taken shall state that the action was taken by unanimous written consent of the Board of Trustees without a meeting and that the Bylaws of this corporation authorize the Trustees to so act and such statement shall be *prima facie* evidence of such authority.

## **Article IX Quorum**

A simple majority of the Board of Trustees members (including the Senior Pastor/President) at an official Board of Trustees meeting constitutes a quorum.

## **Article X Ecclesiastical Authority**

This church is theocratic in government. In any growing congregation, there will be people at all stages of spiritual growth and maturity. For that reason, it is not proper to submit the affairs of the church to a democratic vote, for the purpose of the church is not to do the will of the majority, but the will of God.

Any disputes that arise over the interpretation of these Bylaws, doctrine, or matters of faith, shall be deferred to the highest ecclesiastical authority of this church. In this case, it would be the Senior Pastor/President, with the advice of the Board of Trustees.

## **Article XI Mutual Interest**

The behavior of anyone in fellowship with this church is of common interest to the Board of Trustees and congregation (Gal. 6:1). This church requires every member of the Board of Trustees and every congregant to adhere to a lifestyle that is consistent with the doctrines

of this church as taught in the Holy Scriptures. Therefore, this church reserves the right to refuse service to any individual that is not submitting their lifestyle to this Scriptural mode of conduct. This refusal would include services, benefits, and any use of church assets.

## **Article XII Prohibited Activities**

This church is prohibited from engaging in activities which violate its written doctrines. This church is also prohibited from condoning, promoting, or allowing any of its assets to be used for activities that violate its written doctrines.

## **Article XIII Senior Pastor's Vision**

To establish an efficient leadership infrastructure, the Senior Pastor/President shall be responsible to articulate in clear, concise and simple language the vision of the church. The purpose of this is to create a consistent and logical framework which empowers staff and volunteers to participate in the decision making processes that reflect the Senior Pastor/President's heart and vision for the church.

## **Article XIV Security of People and Property**

### **Section 1 Ministry of Helps**

To help ensure the protection, security, and safety of congregants, guests, and volunteers during church functions, this church recognizes the Ministry of Helps. The Board of Trustees may establish teams and committees who are trained in the policy and procedures of the church to carry out this ministry.

### **Section 2 Weapons Usage Policy Requirements**

The Board of Trustees shall adopt a Weapons Usage Policy. This policy will detail the procedures for executing the following, but not limited to:

#### **1. Purpose**

This article establishes the requirement for the Board of Trustees to formulate and adopt a weapons usage policy for the church. The aim is to ensure the safety and security of all members and visitors while respecting legal and ethical considerations related to firearms on church property.

#### **2. Formulation of Weapons Usage Policy**

- 1. Mandate:** The Board of Trustees is mandated to develop a comprehensive weapons usage policy that addresses the presence and regulation of firearms within church premises.
- 2. Considerations:** The policy shall consider local and state laws, the safety and security needs of the congregation, and the church's commitment to creating a safe worship environment.

### **3. Adoption**

Once formulated, the weapons usage policy must be approved by a simple majority vote of the Board of Trustees.

### **4. Amendments and Revisions**

The Board of Trustees may review and amend the weapons usage policy from time to time as deemed necessary.

## **Article XV Emergency Lockdowns**

### **Section 1 Right to Remain Open**

In alignment with recent Supreme Court rulings, this church reaffirms its vital role in the spiritual, emotional, and mental well-being of its congregation. As such, the church maintains its constitutional right to remain open during government-mandated lockdowns, as outlined below.

- 1. Equal Treatment:** The church asserts that it cannot be treated less favorably than comparable secular organizations during emergencies.
- 2. Uniform Restrictions:** The church shall comply with government restrictions only if they apply uniformly to all gatherings, both religious and secular. For example, if a state imposes a ban on gatherings in excess of 100 persons that applies uniformly to every religious and secular organization, the church will cooperate with such measures.
- 3. Board of Trustees' Discretion:** If the Board of Trustees believes that the government is not treating churches equally, we reserve the right to seek legal counsel to determine if we can remain open.

### **Section 2 Safety Measures**

- 1. Health and Safety Protocols:** While asserting the right to remain open, the church shall implement appropriate health and safety protocols to protect the health and safety of its members, staff, and volunteers.
- 2. Cooperation with Guidelines:** The church will seek to cooperate with public health guidelines to the extent possible without compromising its essential function of worship and ministry.
- 3. Online Services:** The church will enhance its online presence and provide virtual worship services, Bible studies, and other forms of support to its members during lockdowns.

## **Article XVI Review of Church Records**

### **Section 1 Requests Made by Congregant**

To ensure the trust of the congregants and to also ensure that a public interest is being served, church records and basic financial information may be available for congregational inspection and review upon reasonable notice and during normal business hours, provided, however, that no confidential health information of individuals or other nonpublic information of individuals need be disclosed except pursuant to a lawful order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

### **Section 2 Required Provisions of the Request**

Requests for information must be in writing, must identify the requestor, must state the reason for the request, and must affirm that the information shall in no way be made public or shared with any other congregant in a way that will jeopardize the church.

### **Section 3 Required Fee**

This corporation may require a reasonable per-page fee for any copies that are required in order to accommodate approved records requests.

### **Section 4 Confidentiality**

In order to keep the records of the church confidential, records shall not be released to any outside agency, person or entity unless due process has been served and a properly issued subpoena has been personally delivered. This includes the IRS, except under the provisions of Section 7611, which shall be limited only to information deemed to be relevant to the inquiry being made. At all times the IRS will be expected to comply with all of the provisions of Section 7611.

### **Section 5 Denying a Request**

The Board of Trustees reserves the right to deny such a request for any of the following reasons:

1. The request is considered by the Board of Trustees and deemed to be frivolous;
2. The individual making the request has a history of being divisive;
3. The individual does not adequately provide the required information on the request as stated in this Article;
4. The person making a request is not a regular attendee or regular financial contributor.

## **Article XVII Privacy**

This church shall diligently watch to keep private all records concerning polity, doctrine, counseling and information on individuals in fellowship with this church. This church must

not disclose any records that may compromise information about a member's attendance, membership status, giving, and counseling records, except pursuant to a lawful order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

## **Article XVIII Order**

For the purpose of conducting business, the Senior Pastor/President shall, in an orderly manner, preside over all of the affairs of the corporation.

## **Article XIX Finances**

### **Section 1 Audit**

The Treasurer and/or any other person or persons appointed by the Board of Trustees shall complete an internal audit. This audit of all financial records shall be made after the close of the calendar year, prior to the end of February.

### **Section 2 Checks, Payments and Withdrawals**

The Board of Trustees of Christian Truth Ministries, Inc. shall adopt a Corporate Expenditures Policy detailing the procedure for properly executing checks, payments, and withdrawals.

### **Section 3 Salaries**

All salaries shall be determined in the following manner:

1. The President shall consider each candidate and create a compensation package that shall be forwarded to the Board of Trustees for approval
2. The Board of Trustees shall consider the recommendation of the President and shall vote on the package.

Only uncompensated individuals of the Board of Trustees shall vote on any recommended compensation package.

All salaries shall be reviewed each year during the last meeting of the calendar year.

### **Section 4 Digital Currency**

The Board of Trustees shall adopt a Digital Currency Policy. This policy will detail the procedures for executing the following, but not limited to:

1. **Acceptance Guidelines:** Adhere to IRS guidelines for accepting digital currency donations.
2. **Communication with Donors:** Inform donors about the policy and tax implications.
3. **Acknowledgment of Donations:** Send acknowledgment letters with specified details and ensure IRS compliance.

4. **Investment Strategy:** Develop, implement, and approve an investment strategy for digital assets.
5. **Transactions:** Obtain board approval for transactions involving digital assets.
6. **Management:** The chief officer will decide on storage methods and ensure security measures for digital assets.

## **Article XX Property Rights**

All property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred or conveyed in the corporation's name.

No real or chattel property of the corporation shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated without authorization of the Senior Pastor/President.

The Senior Pastor/President of the corporation shall certify in such conveyances, leases, or mortgages.

## **Article XXI Dissolution**

In the event that the corporation ceases to exist, all assets of this church shall, at the discretion of the Board of Trustees be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction in the county in which the principal office of the church is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

## **Article XXII Ministers of the Gospel**

The Senior Pastor/President of this ministry shall by virtue of his office automatically be recognized as an ordained minister.

### **Section 1 Classes of Ministers**

This ministry shall have a set number of classes of ministers, as set forth below. Each class of minister will have distinct rights and privileges; they are listed below:

#### **Commissioned Minister:**

This recognition is automatically conferred to all believers in fellowship with this ministry. They are not authorized to perform any sacerdotal services, but primarily assist others in the Body of Christ. Individuals in this category may include, but are not limited to: teachers, worship leaders, instructors, hospital and jail visitors, those who provide ministerial assistance, and lay persons.

**Chaplain:**

This recognition is for ministers of the gospel that are called by God and recognized by the Senior Pastor/President to minister primarily in prisons, hospitals and government agencies.

**Minister's Apprentice:**

This recognition is conferred by the Senior Pastor/President of this ministry. This recognition is for those who are starting out in the ministry, but need extensive training. They are to work closely with a licensed or ordained minister. Such persons are not authorized to perform any sacerdotal services.

**Licensed Minister:**

This recognition is conferred by the Senior Pastor/President of this ministry. It is intended for individuals who are somewhat seasoned in ministry but require additional experience. Many of these individuals have been active in their chosen vocation but, for various reasons, have not yet entered full-time ministry or have only been in full-time ministry for less than three (3) years. Such persons are authorized to perform the following religious functions:

1. Conduct religious worship
2. Religious instruction
3. Administer communion
4. Provide spiritual counseling
5. Serve on the Board of Trustees of a church
6. And other sacerdotal functions including
  - A. Conduct baby dedication ceremonies
  - B. Perform baptisms
  - C. Perform weddings
  - D. Conduct funerals
  - E. Visit the sick and shut-in
  - F. Minister in prisons

However, this person is not in charge of a congregation. Limited authority is granted to run the affairs of the ministry.

### **Ordained Pastor/Minister:**

This recognition is conferred by the Senior Pastor/President to those persons who have an "established" or "proven" ministry. Ordained ministers are authorized to perform all functions of the Christian ministry and religious functions and must be capable of doing so. Ordained ministers are authorized to perform all religious functions, including but not limited to:

1. Conduct religious worship
2. Religious instruction
3. Administer communion
4. Provide spiritual counseling
5. Serve on the Board of Trustees of a church
6. Ministry administration
7. And other sacerdotal functions including
  - A. Conduct baby dedication ceremonies
  - B. Perform baptisms
  - C. Perform weddings
  - D. Conduct funerals
  - E. Visit the sick and shut-in
  - F. Minister in prisons

He must be capable, as determined by the Senior Pastor/President, to take charge of a congregation.

### **Section 2 Senior Pastor/President's Authority**

The Senior Pastor/President of this ministry shall have ecclesiastical authority to decide who, how or if a person will be licensed by this ministry to hold any of the classes mentioned above (Matt. 16:13-19).

### **Section 3 Elders**

The Elders are a committee appointed by the Board of Trustees tasked with overseeing the spiritual care of the congregation. Their authority is limited to that which is granted them by the Board of Trustees. They have no financial or governmental control within the fellowship. They should only concern themselves with the spiritual needs of the congregation.

## **Qualifications**

All Elders must qualify by exemplifying the following in their lives:

1. Above reproach (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6-7)
2. The husband of one wife or the wife of one husband (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6-7)
3. Temperate, sober, vigilant (1 Tim. 3:2)
4. Sober-minded, prudent (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8)
5. Of good behavior; orderly, respectable (1 Tim. 3:2)
6. Hospitable (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8)
7. Able to teach (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:9)
8. Not a drunkard (1 Tim. 3:3,8; Titus 1:7)
9. Not violent; not pugnacious (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7)
10. Patient, moderate, forbearing, gentle (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7)
11. Not a brawler; not contentious, not quick tempered (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7)
12. Not covetous; not a lover of money; not greedy for money (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7)
13. Rules his own house well; his children are faithful (1 Timothy 3:4; Titus 1:6)
14. Not a new convert (1 Tim. 3:6)
15. Well thought of, has a good reputation with outsiders (1 Tim. 3:7)
16. Not self-willed (Titus 1:7)
17. A lover of good (Titus 1:8)
18. Just, upright (Titus 1:8)
19. Holy, devout (Titus 1:8)
20. Self-controlled (Titus 1:8)

## **Duties**

The Elders shall devote their time to prayer, the ministry of the Word (by teaching and encouraging sound doctrine), and shepherding God's flock. The Elders shall take particular responsibility to examine and instruct prospective Members, equip the Membership for the work of the ministry, encourage sound doctrine and practice, admonish and correct error, coordinate and promote the ministries of the church, and mobilize the church for world missions. The Elders are further to ensure that all who minister the Word to the

congregation, including outside speakers, share our fundamental convictions. They shall work closely with the Board of Trustees to ensure a healthy spiritual atmosphere within the fellowship.

### **Manner of Appointment**

The Senior Pastor/President shall nominate and the Board of Trustees shall confirm Elders.

### **Term of Office**

The term of office of each Elder shall be reviewed every two years. The number of consecutive terms that an Elder may serve is unlimited. An Elder is subject to removal at any time in accordance with the Removal section below.

### **Removal**

Should an Elder be found in violation of the Bylaws the Board of Trustees may dismiss him by a simple majority vote.

## **Section 4 Deacons**

### **Qualifications**

The office of Deacon is described in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-7. The church shall recognize, in accordance with the constitutional provisions on elections, men/women who are giving of themselves in service to the church, and who possess particular gifts of service. These members shall be received as gifts of Christ to His Church and set apart as Deacons.

### **Duties**

Deacons shall care for the temporal needs of members, attend to the accommodations for public worship, and encourage and support those able to help others and those with gifts of administration.

### **Manner of Appointment**

The Senior Pastor/President shall nominate and the Board of Trustees shall confirm Deacons.

### **Term of Office**

The term of office of each Deacon shall be reviewed every two years. The number of consecutive terms that a Deacon may serve is unlimited. A Deacon is subject to removal at any time as outlined in the Removal section below.

### **Removal**

Should a Deacon be found in violation of the Bylaws the Board of Trustees may dismiss him/her by a simple majority vote.

## **Article XXIII Indemnification**

### **Section 1 Indemnification Coverage**

This church shall indemnify, to the extent legally permissible, each person who serves or has served as an officer, trustee, or employee of the church. Indemnification means protecting these individuals against all expenses and liabilities they might incur, including but not limited to:

- Legal fees
- Judgments
- Fines
- Excise taxes
- Penalties
- Settlement payments

### **Section 2 Scope of Protection**

These protections apply to any costs that arise from their service in these roles if they become involved in any threatened, pending, or completed legal action, suit, or proceeding because of their service.

### **Section 3 Exceptions to Indemnification**

Indemnification will not be provided if:

1. The person is finally adjudicated (legally determined) in a proceeding to have not acted in good faith.
2. It is determined that the person knew or should have known that their actions were not in the best interests of the church.

### **Section 4 Approval of Settlements**

Any compromise or settlement payment must be approved by a simple majority vote of a quorum of Trustees who are not involved in the proceeding.

## **Article XXIV Media and Communication**

The Board of Trustees shall adopt a Media and Communications Policy, which must include the following:

1. **Public Statements:** Designated spokesperson and approval process.
2. **Social Media:** Guidelines and monitoring procedures.

The policy document outlines the specific procedures and requirements related to public statements and social media management and is binding upon adoption.

## **Article XXV Subsidiaries**

### **Section 1 Authority to Form a Subsidiary SMLLC**

The church may, at any time it deems appropriate, form a subsidiary known as a Single Member Limited Liability Company (SMLLC) by passing a resolution through a simple majority vote of the Board of Trustees.

### **Section 2 Purposes of the SMLLC**

The SMLLC may be formed for any of the following purposes:

- a. To hold title to buildings and properties owned by the church.
- b. To conduct revenue-generating activities consistent with the church's purposes and mission.
- c. To manage and operate specific programs or initiatives, including but not limited to:
  - i. Citywide outreach programs to feed the poor
  - ii. Sports programs
  - iii. Men's and women's auxiliary groups
  - iv. K-12 schools and higher learning education agencies
  - v. Bible colleges
  - vi. Daughter churches
  - vii. Local and foreign mission outreach programs
  - viii. Evangelistic outreach
  - ix. Minister ordination organizations
- d. To engage in any other purpose or activity that promotes the purposes and activities of the church, as determined by the Board of Trustees.

### **Section 3 Adding Additional Members to the SMLLC**

At any time, the church may add additional members to the SMLLC by passing a resolution through a simple majority vote of the Board of Trustees.

## **Article XXVI Bathroom Usage**

The Board of Trustees shall adopt a Bathroom Usage Policy. This policy will detail the procedures for executing the following, but not limited to:

### **Section 1 Bathroom Usage Policy Requirement**

1. **Gender-Specific Facilities:** The church shall maintain separate bathroom facilities for males and females. Individuals are required to use the bathroom that corresponds with their biological sex as determined by their chromosomes (male by XY chromosomes and female by XX chromosomes).
2. **Enforcement:** The church leadership is responsible for ensuring that bathroom facilities are used in accordance with this article. Any concerns or violations should be reported to the church leadership for appropriate action.
3. **Exceptions:**
  - a. **Young Children:** In cases of young children or individuals with special circumstances, parents or guardians may bring the child into the bathroom that is consistent with the parent's sex.
  - b. **Unisex Facilities:** Bathrooms designated for single-person use may be unisex.

### **Section 2 Review and Amendment**

The Board of Trustees may review and amend this policy from time to time as deemed necessary. Any changes to this policy must be approved by a simple majority vote of the Board of Trustees.

## **Article XXVII Other Considerations**

Any matters not addressed within these Bylaws shall be deliberated and resolved at an official meeting of the Board of Trustees.

## **Article XXVIII Seats and Pews to Be Free**

The seats and pews in every church, building or edifice owned or occupied by the corporation shall be forever free for the occupation and use, during public worship, of all persons choosing to occupy the same who conduct themselves with propriety, and no rent, charge or exaction shall ever be made or demanded for such occupation or use. This paragraph shall not be amended.

## **Article XXIX Amendments**

### **Section 1 Amendments to the Bylaws**

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made by a simple majority vote of the official Board of Trustees, including the Senior Pastor/President.

## Section 2 Incorporation by Reference

- Authority to Incorporate:** All policies, decisions, and programs required to be adopted under these Bylaws are hereby incorporated into these Bylaws by reference and shall have the same legal effect as if fully set forth herein.
- Approval Process:** Upon approval by a simple majority vote of the Board of Trustees, the specific item shall be recorded in the church's corporate records book.
- Effective Date:** Such approval shall take effect immediately and shall be incorporated by reference into the church's Bylaws.
- Record Keeping:** The Secretary of the church shall be tasked with maintaining an up-to-date copy of this approval and ensuring that it is promptly recorded and stored as part of the church's Bylaws.

## Certification of Approval

These Bylaws adopted on this the 27 day of July 2025 make null and void all prior addenda, and these Bylaws supersede and replace all previous Bylaws voted on prior to this day.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian D. Johnson".

Senior Pastor/President of  
Christian Truth Ministries, Inc.