

# **Gwinnett Community Church** **Constitution and Bylaws**

Revised December 6, 2016

## Article 1: Name

SECTION 1 The name of this organization as incorporated is “Gwinnett Community Church”.

## Article 2: Purpose

SECTION 1 It shall be the purpose of this church, under the head-ship of the Lord Jesus Christ and in accordance with the doctrines and practices of the New Testament, to glorify God through effective ministries of worship, instruction, fellowship, and evangelism. This church shall remain an independent and autonomous congregation, free from all denominational affiliations and controls.

## Article 3: Declaration of Faith

SECTION 1 We believe in one God, creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally co-existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

SECTION 2 We believe in the Scriptures, both the old and the new Testaments, as verbally and completely inspired by God, inerrant in the original writings, and our supreme and final authority in faith and life.

SECTION 3 We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death on the cross, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father and in His future personal return in power and glory.

SECTION 4 We believe all men are sinners by divine declaration, by nature, and by choice, and need a Savior to save them from the penalty and power of sin.

SECTION 5 We believe salvation is a free gift by God’s grace, received through faith in Jesus Christ and his finished work on the cross. All who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit, become new creations in Christ, and enter into an eternal relationship with God as His children.

SECTION 6 We believe that baptism is commanded by Jesus, and practiced by the New Testament church, not as a means of salvation, but as a fitting testimony of

the believer's identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. We encourage any who have not been baptized since becoming believers to follow the Lord's example and command concerning baptism. We baptize believers only, by immersion.

**SECTION 7** The Church consists of all those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood, and are born again of the Holy Spirit. Christ is the Head of the Body, the Church, which has been commissioned by Him to go into the entire world as a witness, preaching the Gospel to all nations.

The local church is a body of believers in Christ, who are joined together for the worship of God, for edification through instruction in the Word of God, for fellowship, and the proclamation of the Gospel.

**SECTION 8** Marriage and Sexuality

We believe that term "marriage" has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture.

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God.

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of the church.

#### Article 4: Membership

SECTION 1 Any person who wishes to identify with Gwinnett Community Church as a member should express their desire to the elders or a committee designated by them. They will be received into membership after having given to them sufficient testimony of personal faith and commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

SECTION 2 Membership may be withdrawn by personal request to the elders, or terminated by action of the elders if, after following scriptural principals of church discipline, the member's conduct warrants termination.

#### Article 5: Organization

SECTION 1 The Church shall be governed by a Council of Elders. The Council shall be comprised of the Senior Pastor, and scripturally qualified men (according to Titus 1 and 1 Timothy 3) who are appointed by the Council of Elders.

SECTION 2 The functioning of the Council of Elders shall be as follows:

- a. The Council of Elders shall appoint from its members a chairman, an assistant chairman and a secretary.
- b. The Council of Elders shall meet at least monthly and may be called into special sessions at any time by the Chairman of the Council or the Senior Pastor.
- c. Fifty percent of the Elders shall be present at a regular or specially called meeting to constitute a quorum.
- d. Policies adopted and directives issued by the Council of Elders shall remain in force until rescinded by the Council of Elders.
- e. The meetings shall be limited to the Council of Elders and others approved by the Chairman. Members may ask to attend or be asked to attend to present specific items of business for the Elders to consider.
- f. Minutes of each meeting shall be taken. All minutes shall be the property of the church.
- g. Resignations shall be in writing to the Council of Elders.

SECTION 3 The duties of the Council of Elders shall be as follows:

- a. To prayerfully guide and oversee the direction and work of the church for the spiritual good of the body.
- b. To shepherd the flock of God in accordance with the Scriptures (protecting, feeding, serving, teaching, counseling, praying for, etc)

- c. To be responsible for and have authority to carry out the assessment for additional staff, the reduction of staff, the interviewing of potential staff, the establishing of salary range, vacations, and benefits to all staff.
- d. To be responsible for the preparation and the oversight of the annual budget, which is to be available to the congregation.
- e. To ensure the proper enrolling of new members and, where necessary, carry out Biblical church discipline.
- f. To appoint committees, whose membership may include elders, deacons, and other church members, and delegate to those committees such powers and duties as may be determined by the Council of Elders.
- g. To be examples of faith, love, and godliness to all.

### Article 6: Church Leadership

#### SECTION 1 Senior Pastor

The Senior Pastor shall be a man called of God who by virtue of his training, gifts, experience and character is considered by the Council of Elders to be qualified to be pastor of the non-denominational church. He shall be called by the Council of Elders for an indefinite term.

#### SECTION 2 Staff Pastors

The Staff Pastors shall be men who by virtue of their training, gifts, experience and character are considered by the Council of Elders to be qualified to minister in this non-denominational church. They are to provide leadership to the church as defined by the Council of Elders, and serve under the Senior Pastor's direction. They shall be called by the Council of Elders for an indefinite term.

#### SECTION 3 Appointed Elders

The appointed Elders are to be Scripturally qualified men whose duties are spelled out in Article 5, SECTION 3. Their appointment will be subject to a "good report" verification by the congregation annually. The term of service will be three years. Additional time may be added by a unanimous vote of the Elders.

SECTION 4 Deacons

Scripturally qualified men may be appointed, at any time, by the Council of Elders. Deacons shall be assigned to committees for the purpose of serving to meet the specific needs of the church. Their appointment will be subject to a “good report” verification by the congregation annually. The term of service will be three years. Additional time may be added by a unanimous vote of the Deacons and Elders.

SECTION 5 Treasurer of the Church

The Treasurer of the church shall be appointed by the Council of Elders and will work in concert with the Elders, Deacons, and Ministry Leaders in the preparation of the annual budget.

SECTION 6 Other Church Staff

All other church staff shall be determined by the Council of Elders.

Article 7: Board of Directors

SECTION 1 The Council of Elders shall be the Board of Directors.

Article 8: Officers and Duties of the Corporation

SECTION 1 The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer of the corporation shall be the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary of the Council of Elders, and the Treasurer of the church respectively.

SECTION 2 All of the above officers shall be selected annually.

SECTION 3 The duties of the Board of Directors and officers of the corporation shall be to transact all legal business of behalf of the church.

SECTION 4 The duties of the Church Administrator shall include authorization to transact all legal business on behalf of the church as directed by the Council of Elders.

Article 9: Amendments

SECTION 1 These By-laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Council of Elders by two-thirds of those present provided that prior notification of the proposed changes has been made to the council members.