

DISCIPLES CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Constitution

2001 Independence Parkway
Plano, Texas

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DISCIPLES CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
Plano, Texas

CONSTITUTION

Adopted February 26, 2006 to supplement revised By-laws

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Disciples Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Plano, Texas, a congregationally governed body affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, and committed to the principles of this body, do hereby adopt this Constitution February 26, 2006, for the regulation of the affairs of the corporation, pursuant to the Articles of Incorporation dated May 21, 1972, as amended, and the Certificate of Incorporation dated August 14, 1972, as amended. Both Articles and Certificate of Incorporation reflect the Charter Number 311900.

This Constitution represents the core values and organizational fundamentals of Disciples Christian Church. Other documents, the By-laws and Operating Procedures, describe the details of the operations of the church.

**ARTICLE I
NAME, AFFILIATION AND ADDRESS**

The name of this organization shall be Disciples Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Plano, Texas. The principal office address shall be 2001 Independence Parkway, Plano, Texas, 75075.

**ARTICLE II
PURPOSE**

*In order to follow Jesus and worship God:
We will serve our neighbors.*

We will minister to our fellow Christians.

We will live and tell the good news of Jesus Christ in all we do.

As members of Disciples Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), our purpose is:

- To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through all of our life and work;
- To provide a worshipful atmosphere where people can let the love of God shine through them by ministering to the needs of the congregation;
- To grow together as an increasingly vital, positive and loving member in the body of Christ, witnessing to others in the community around us and inviting them to join with us in our Church family;
- To reach out into our community and beyond with deeds as well as words of Christ's fulfilling love.

**ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP**

The membership of this Church shall consist of those who are now identified as members of the Congregation as of the adoption date of this Constitution, those who shall unite with the Church by profession of faith that Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior and by baptism, by reaffirmation of faith, and/or those who transfer their membership from another Christian fellowship.

ARTICLE IV CHURCH YEAR

SECTION A. CHURCH YEAR

The church business year shall run concurrent with the calendar year.

SECTION B. BUSINESS MEETINGS OF THE CONGREGATION

1. The annual business meeting of the Church, shall be held during November each year, at which time the following business shall be transacted:
 - a. Election of Officers of the Board, Diaconate, Elders, Trustees, Junior Diaconate, and other Church officials as specified in the By-laws.
 - b. Presentation for approval of the following year's budget.
 - c. Such other business as is deemed necessary.
2. Such annual business meeting, the date of which shall be determined by the Board, shall normally be held after a regular Sunday morning Church service.
3. Special business meetings of the congregation shall be called by the Chairperson upon the request of the Board or upon the written petition of members of the Church as specified in the By-laws.
4. Notice of all regular or special business meetings of the congregation shall be provided in accordance with the By-laws.
5. Voting privileges at business meetings shall be granted to all participating members of the Church congregation.
6. A quorum shall be required to transact business at any business meeting of the congregation. A quorum shall consist of at least twenty percent (20%) of the participating members of the congregation.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS AND BOARD OF THE CHURCH

SECTION A. BOARD MEMBERSHIP

1. The Board shall include the following Officers elected by the Congregation.
 - a. Chairperson
 - b. Vice-Chairperson
 - c. Secretary
 - d. Treasurer
2. One person may not serve in more than one role as an Officer of the Board.
3. The Board shall also include the following members.
 - a. Representatives of the Elders as selected by the elected Elders.
 - b. Representatives of the Diaconate as selected by the elected Diaconate.
 - c. Representatives of the Trustees as selected by the elected Trustees.
 - d. Representatives of the Junior Diaconate as selected by the elected Junior Diaconate.
 - e. Each Coordinator of a Church Ministry who is not otherwise on the Board shall be a Board member by virtue of that office for the current term as Coordinator.

- f. Each Coordinator of an auxiliary group, such as, but not limited to, CWF, CMF, and CYF, who is not otherwise on the Board shall be a Board member by virtue of that office for the current term as Coordinator.
4. The representatives selected by the Diaconate, Elders, Junior Diaconate, and Trustees shall not concurrently be one of the elected Officers of the Board.
5. Each member of the Board, as enumerated above, shall have one vote. No person may hold more than one voting position on the Board
6. The Senior Minister, and any other Minister, shall be an ex-officio member, without vote, of the Board.

SECTION C. DUTIES OF THE BOARD

It shall be the duty of the Board:

- to consider and recommend general policies to the Church,
- to transact the Church business,
- to direct the administration of the program of the Church through the Ministries established by the Board,
- to appoint representatives to the bodies of the greater Church,
- to hire support staff necessary to carry out the policy of the Church,
- to keep the Church records,
- to maintain the Church property,
- to perform such other duties as designated by the Congregation.

SECTION D. MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

1. The Board shall meet at least once each quarter on a date to be determined by the Board.
2. The Chairperson of the Board shall call additional meetings of the Board as needed to transact Church business, or upon the written request of members of the Congregation as specified in the By-laws. Notice of such meetings shall include a brief statement of the purpose that they are called.
3. Notice of all meetings of the Board shall be provided in accordance with the By-laws.
4. A quorum shall be required for an official vote at any Board meeting. A quorum shall consist of at least one third (1/3) of the membership of the Board.
5. All Board meetings shall be open to all members of the Congregation.

SECTION E. DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

1. **CHAIRPERSON:** The Chairperson shall call and preside at all Board meetings and business meetings of the congregation, serve as Chairperson of the Board and of the congregation, and may execute such instruments and documents as are required in the business of the Church that are not specifically assigned as duties of the Trustees.
2. **VICE-CHAIRPERSON:** The Vice-Chairperson shall call and preside at all Board meetings and business meetings of the congregation in the absence of the Chairperson and perform other duties of the Chairperson in his/her absence. The Vice-Chairperson shall also serve as Chairperson of the Church Cabinet in the absence of the Senior Minister, as defined herein.

3. SECRETARY: The Secretary shall keep minutes of all business meetings of the Church, serve as secretary of the Board, keep minutes of all Board meetings and perform such other duties as may be assigned. The Secretary shall keep a complete and current record of all Board meeting minutes on file in the church office. The Secretary shall also be custodian of the Charter and Certificate of Incorporation, which will be in safekeeping in a safety deposit box in the name of the Disciples Christian Church in a local bank.
4. TREASURER: the Treasurer shall disburse all funds of the Church according to the authority designated by the Board, and on approval of the Coordinators of the various Ministries within the authority granted said Coordinator by the Board, process quarterly records of contributions from members, and make an annual report to the church and such other reports as the Board may require. The Treasurer shall participate in the creation of the proposed budget for the following year. The Treasurer may be bonded at the expense of the congregation.
5. TRUSTEES: The Trustees shall act as the legal agents of the Church in all business matters under the direction of the Board and subject to the approval of the congregation, hold legal title to all Church property and handle all business transactions related thereto, have supervision over all endowment and trust funds, and perform such duties as are required by the laws of the State of Texas. One trustee shall have custody of a key to the safety deposit box of the Church.

SECTION F. PROCEDURE FOR ELECTIONS

The procedures for election of elected members of the Board shall be as specified in the By-laws.

SECTION G. UNEXPIRED TERMS

If a vacancy occurs within the Officers of the Board, it shall be filled for the unexpired term through nomination by the remaining Officers of the Board and approval by the Board.

SECTION H. HONORARY OFFICERS

Those persons who have rendered long and faithful service to the Church may be named as Elder Emeritus or Deacon Emeritus, by action of the Board. The term of such honorary office shall be indefinite or as provided by the Board. Such honorary officers shall be ex-officio members, without vote, of the Board.

**ARTICLE VI
SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH**

In keeping with our purpose, Spiritual Leadership is essential to the functioning of the organization. While all members participate in the spiritual life of the Church, the Employed Minister(s), Diaconate, and Elders play vital roles in the basic Ministry of the Church.

SECTION A. EMPLOYED MINISTER(S)

The employed minister(s) shall possess those qualifications of leadership and character as prescribed for leaders in the New Testament. A Pastor/Senior Minister shall be ordained, or be a candidate for ordination, and shall either have standing with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) or be under the care of the Regional Committee on the Ministry. Associate Ministers shall be ordained or licensed with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Provisions regarding the relationship of the various employed ministers to the church, including but not limited to, the duties of such minister(s), the selection process, the contract, and resignation/termination are set forth in the By-laws.

SECTION B. ELDERS

The Elders, in cooperation with the Senior Minister, Church staff, Board, Church Vision Team, and Church Ministries shall promote the growth and welfare of the Church, encourage by example and word, and participate in the active Ministries of the Church. Elders shall serve at the Lord's Table and perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board or Congregation. Qualifications for Elders, the selection process, and responsibilities shall be specified in the By-Laws.

SECTION C. DIACONATE

The Diaconate, in cooperation with the Senior Minister, Church staff, Board, Church Vision Team, and Church Ministries, shall promote the growth and welfare of the Church, encourage by example and word, and participate in the active Ministries of the Church. The Diaconate shall assist in greeting and ushering worshippers, distribute the Lord's Supper, receive offerings and perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board or Congregation. Qualifications for the Diaconate, the selection process, and responsibilities shall be specified in the By-Laws.

SECTION D. JUNIOR DIACONATE

Under the direction of the Diaconate, the duties of the Junior Diaconate may include any of the duties of the Diaconate. Qualifications for the Junior Diaconate, the selection process, and responsibilities shall be specified in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VII THE CHURCH VISION TEAM

SECTION A. MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Church Vision Team shall consist of the following:

1. The Chairperson of the Board
2. The Vice-Chairperson of the Board
3. The Secretary of the Board
4. The Treasurer of the Board
5. The Senior Minister
6. Such others as may be needed.

SECTION B. OFFICERS

1. The Senior Minister shall be the Chairperson of the Church Vision Team.
2. The Vice-Chairperson of the Board shall act as Chairperson of the Church Vision Team in the absence of the Senior Minister.
3. The Church Vision Team may also elect from its membership such other officers as it desires.

SECTION C. MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH VISION TEAM

The Church Vision Team shall meet as needed.

SECTION D. DUTIES OF THE CHURCH VISION TEAM

The duties of the Church Vision Team shall be defined in the By-Laws.

SECTION E. RELATIONSHIP TO CHURCH BOARD

The Church Vision Team shall perform its duties under the direction of the Board. The Church Vision Team is not a legislative body.

ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any business meeting of the Congregation by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present, provided that the proposed amendment has been made known, in writing, to the congregation one month prior to the business meeting at which the vote is taken.

An Amendment may be proposed in writing by any member of the Church. Every proposed amendment presented in writing by a member of the Church shall be so presented to the Church, provided, however, that such proposed amendment shall first have been presented to and approved by the Board.

ARTICLE IX EFFECTIVE DATE

This Constitution was adopted on February 26, 2006.

ARTICLE X CHURCH DISSOLUTION

Subject to the laws of the State of Texas, in the event that the Church is discontinued or dissolved, all Church assets shall be transferred to the North Texas Area (NTA), a part of the Southwest Region, Christian Church - Disciples of Christ - CCSW (Disciples of Christ) affiliated with the Christian Church - Disciples of Christ in the United States and Canada. Officers, Trustees, and members of the Church, without compensation, shall perform whatever tasks and execute such documents as may be required to accomplish this transfer.