

BYLAWS OF CROSSROADS CHURCH

Copperopolis, California

Approved by the Elder Board July 2019

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1 Article 1—Membership

1.1 Significance:

Membership in the local (visible) church is a reflection of one's membership in the Universal (invisible) Church. Because every true believer is a member of the universal church, we expect that only true believers should be members of a local congregation. Additionally, in order for there to be unity of the Spirit, we ask that all those seeking membership at crossroads church be able to sign our basic doctrinal statement.

1.2 Application

1.2.1 A person wishing to be a member of Crossroads Church should inform the elders of their desire. They will be given a simple application to complete. On the application they will be asked to provide their personal salvation story (how they came to believe on Jesus). They will also be asked to affirm that they are in agreement with the basic doctrinal statement and with these bylaws.

1.2.2 Upon reviewing the application at least one of the elders will meet briefly with the applicant to discuss any questions. After the elders vote they will present the new member to the congregation.

1.3 Children

1.3.1 The young Children of members will be considered part of the church family but will not vote or hold official church office until they become church members through the same application process. They may become voting members at the age of sixteen.

1.4 Responsibilities

1.4.1 The biblical responsibilities of a local church member include but are not limited to: regular observance of the two ordinances (I Cor. 11:25; Acts 10:48), faithful participation in corporate worship (Heb. 10:25), continual prayer for other believers (I Thess. 5:17), Thoughtful submission to church leadership (I Thess. 5:12; Heb. 13:17), loving action toward other believers (Rom. 12:10), humble service to the body (Jn. 13:14), joyful financial contribution (II Cor. 9:7), godly living in the community (Phil. 1:27).

1.5 Termination

1.5.1 By Request: Any member who desires to withdraw from the church will advise the elders. Upon request, the elders will provide a letter of recommendation to any withdrawing member in good standing to affiliate with another local church (Rom. 16:1-2)

- 1.5.2 By Absence: Any person not in attendance for three months will be contacted by the elders and encouraged to return to corporate worship services, or to withdraw membership and affiliate with another church. If the person cannot be contacted or is unresponsive they will cease to be a member upon a vote of the elders. The church will maintain an absentee membership only for members away at school, in missionary service, lengthy vacation, work schedule, or for extended sickness.
- 1.5.3 Discipline: A person may be removed from the membership roles in accordance with the discipline process described in Section 6.3.
- 1.5.4 Reinstatement: A former member of Crossroads church may have his membership reinstated upon a request to and an interview with the Elders.

1.6 Congregational Meetings:

All members sixteen years and older will have the privilege of voting on all decisions of the congregation. A majority vote of the members present will decide all issues except where specified otherwise in the Constitution and By-laws of this church.

Because voting tends to divide, every attempt will be made to keep voting to a minimum. In general, the congregation will vote on the following:

- a) The Annual Budget
- b) Purchases of real property and other major purchases not provided for in the budget
- c) The calling or removal of elders and deacons
- d) Changes to the Constitution and By-laws

Voting will be by "aye/nay"

Elections will be by secret ballot

The presence of 25% of the active voting members of the church will be necessary to constitute a quorum. Members who are non-residents and members who have been absent for three months will not be considered in determining a quorum.

2 Article 2—Leadership

2.1 Elders

2.1.1 **Definition:** Crossroads understands the biblical terms “elder,” “pastor,” and “overseer” to be used interchangeably to describe one office in the local church (Acts 20, Titus 1:5-7, Phil. 1:1). It is our understanding that a local church will be guided and taught by a group of qualified men who share the authority and responsibility for the spiritual oversight of the body. These men will mutually submit to each other as they serve the body (Matt. 20:25-26).

2.1.2 **Qualifications:** Elders will meet the overarching qualification of “above reproach.” Specifically, an elder must meet the qualifications enumerated in Scripture.

I Timothy 3:1-7
the husband of one wife
sober-minded
self-controlled
respectable,
hospitable,
able to teach,
not a drunkard,
not violent
gentle,
not quarrelsome,
not a lover of money
good manager of his own household
keep children submissive
not a recent convert
well thought of by outsiders

Titus 1:5-9
husband of one wife
children are believers (faithful)
children not open to the charge of debauchery
children not open to the charge of insubordination
not arrogant
not quick tempered
not a drunkard
not violent
not greedy for gain
hospitable
a lover of good
self-controlled
upright
holy
disciplined
holds firmly to the truth
able to instruct in sound doctrine and to rebuke

- 2.1.3 **Appointment:** Elders will be selected and carefully interviewed by the existing elders (Titus 1:5). Upon their approval, they will be recommended to the members for a vote. [In the event that there is no qualified elder due to sudden retirement, death, or other unanticipated circumstances, the members will form a search committee lead by the deacons and will attempt to hire a new pastor/elder.]
- 2.1.4 **Number of Elders:** Whenever possible, the church will maintain at least two elders, preferably more. The elder team may be comprised of both vocational and non-vocational elders as deemed appropriate.
- 2.1.5 **Term of Office:** Once appointed, an elder may serve indefinitely at the discretion of the other elders and the church members. An elder may step down temporarily or permanently due to age, health, personal constraints etc.
- 2.1.6 **Responsibilities:**

The elders will offer broad oversight of all aspects of church life and ministry (Acts 20:28, I Peter 5:1-3).

Elders will nurture the flock through the ministry of God's Word (I Tim. 4:11-16; 5:17).

The elders will offer guidance to the body through, leadership, teaching, counseling, correction, stewardship, and prayer (Heb. 13:17; James 5:13-16; I Peter 5:1-3).

Elders will provide guidance to deacons and other ministry leaders regarding their duties (Acts 6:3).

The elders will generally manage the finances of the church and will recommend a budget to the congregation each year.

Elders will recruit and appoint individuals to various areas of service in the body.

2.2 Deacons

2.2.1 Qualifications

I Timothy 3:8-13

Acts 6:3

Dignified

Good reputation

Not double tongued

Full of the Spirit

Not greedy for dishonest gain

Full of wisdom

Hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience

Tested

Blameless

Godly wife (dignified, not slanderous, sober-minded, faithful)

Husband of one wife

Managing their children and household well

A deacon will exhibit a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and will show himself to be servant minded.

Deacons will be voting members of the church for at least six months prior to their appointment.

- 2.2.2 **Appointment:** Deacons will be appointed by the elders and confirmed by congregational vote (Acts 6:3-6) at the annual meeting or at a special meeting called explicitly for the purpose of appointing deacons.
- 2.2.3 **Number of Deacons:** Because the office of deacon in Scripture seems to be an “as needed” office, there shall be no set number of deacons, but rather they shall be appointed as seems appropriate to the needs of the body.
- 2.2.4 **Term of Office:** Once appointed to office, deacons will serve indefinitely in accordance with the duration of the need, the desire of the congregation and elders, and in accordance with their own desire to continue in the office.
- 2.2.5 **Responsibilities:** Deacons will work directly with the elders to identify areas of service to the body. They will assume responsibility for these specific areas of service and will report on them to the elders.

Because each deacon is gifted by the Holy Spirit in different ways (I Cor. 12:1-11), it is expected that they will each serve the body in a way that accords with their own unique abilities.

3 Article 3—Practices

3.1 Baptism

We believe that baptism is to be an outward expression (Acts 8:26-40) of an internal faith (Rom. 6:1-4). Upon request any individual who is trusting Jesus as savior will be baptized by immersion in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:18-20).

3.2 The Lord’s Supper

The Lord’s supper will be regularly observed with bread and juice in remembrance of his death (I Cor. 11:25). All who profess a genuine faith in Christ may participate.

3.3 Church Discipline:

If any member engages in conduct that becomes an offence to the church, by reason of immoral or unchristian conduct as judged by Scripture, or by promoting discord and division, or by teaching or promoting doctrine which is contrary to the Scripture, he or she will be interviewed and counseled by at least two elders according to the manner clearly indicated in Scripture (Mt. 18:15-36; Gal. 6:1-2; Titus 3:10-11).

If, however, the member chooses to continue in his or her unrepentant condition, he or she will cease to be a member as determined by the Elders after a disclosure to the general congregation of the nature of the offence and events (I Cor. 5:11; Titus 3: 10-11). This same process will be applied to those who are not official members.

3.3 Marriage

Because the Bible clearly indicates that marriage is an exclusive, covenant relationship between one man and one woman (Matt. 19:3-5), we will not perform or recognize “same sex marriages.”

Additionally, because the Bible teaches that believers should not be unequally yoked with unbelievers (II Cor. 6:14), elders at Crossroads Church will attempt to avoid performing weddings where one party is a professing believer and the other is not.