

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS



SOUTH DAYTONA CHRISTIAN CHURCH, INC.

A corporation not for profit organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida.

PREAMBLE

This document is to be used by SOUTH DAYTONA CHRISTIAN CHURCH of South Daytona, Volusia County, Florida, to set forth guidelines for management procedures. As a church patterned after that which is revealed in the New Testament, it is understood that on all matters of Faith, we will abide by the direct commands and approved precedents of the Word of God. The Articles to follow are to be applied in matters of expediency in order that the work of the church may be executed “decently and in order” (I Corinthians 14:40). In other matters, we will attempt to abide by the spirit of love expressed in and by the writings of the New Testament using as organizational guidelines the following Articles.

ARTICLE I

NAME AND PURPOSE

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SECTION 1: NAME: The name of the church shall be SOUTH DAYTONA CHRISTIAN CHURCH, INC. coinciding with the corporation name which is registered with the state of Florida, as a not-for-profit corporation, to meet its legal demands, but which in no way interferes with the spiritual organization of the local church as given in the New Testament (Romans 13:1).

SECTION 2: PURPOSE: The purpose of the church shall be to carry out the mission of Christ as expressed in the New Testament, i.e., the winning of souls to Christ (Matthew 28:19,20) and the nurturing of the saints (Matthew 22:37-40; Ephesians 4:11-13) both here and around the world.

ARTICLE II

AFFILIATION

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SECTION 1: This South Daytona Christian Church shall continue as a local, self-governing Christian body of believers which recognizes Christ as its head (Ephesians 5:23; 1 Corinthians 11:3). South Daytona Christian Church shall not be made or become subject to any outside authority, jurisdiction, or direction by any person, missionary society, organizations (local, state, or national) or any outside authority whatsoever.

SECTION 2: South Daytona Christian Church as such will support and promote only such missionary, educational, and benevolent work consistent with the Gospel of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

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SECTION 1: The membership of the local church shall consist of those who have complied with the New Testament terms of salvation: **faith** in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and personal Lord and Savior, **repentance** of sin, public **confession** of faith in Christ, **immersion in water for the remission of sins**, and **faithful Christian living** as enjoined by the Scriptures (John 20:28-31; Hebrews 11:6; 2 Peter 3:9; Mark 16:16; 1 John 4:15; 1 Peter 3:21; James 2:17-26; Romans 6:3-11; Acts 2:38; etc.). Furthermore, they have **properly presented themselves** to South Daytona Christian Church for membership and have been so enrolled (Galatians 2:9; Hebrews 10:24-25).

SECTION 2: Voting privileges shall be accorded to all members ages 16 or above who shall have continued in active membership for a period of at least six (6) months and have demonstrated by a recent continuity of attendance and service. Any disputed case may be decided upon the basis of these elements by a majority of the Eldership.

SECTION 3: Voting privileges may be disallowed any member for sufficient cause as determined by a majority of the Eldership.

SECTION 4: Church discipline shall be pursued as defined by the New Testament Scriptures. The purpose of Church discipline is to effect a return to a Biblical standard of conduct and doctrine in a member who errs (Galatians 6:1), to maintain purity in the local Church (1 Corinthians 5:6), and to deter sin (1 Timothy 5:20). Members of this Church who shall err in doctrine or conduct shall be subject to discipline as defined by Matthew 18:15-18. All members should follow this pattern in settling a dispute or grievance with a brother or sister in Christ.

ARTICLE IV **OFFICERS**

SECTION 1: Officers in the local church shall consist of Elders and Deacons. There shall be a plurality of persons serving in each of these offices, the specific number of which shall be determined by the needs of South Daytona Christian Church and the number of qualified men available. Serving alongside these men is the Pastoral Staff.

SECTION 2: An 85% affirmative vote of those voting shall be required for election. Each person shall be elected for a term of three years. One year of rest will be required after two consecutive three-year terms (total of six years) **except** to maintain at least three Elders. In the event three qualified Elders willing to serve cannot be found, spiritual leadership shall revert to a "Spiritual Steering Ministry" consisting of full time Ministers and qualified former Elders willing to serve as appointed by the consensus of full-time ministers.

SECTION 3: All officers of South Daytona Christian Church must be members of the local church for at least one (1) year immediately prior to election and must believe without mental reservation in the full and final inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, **which they will confirm by signing a Statement of Faith.**

SECTION 4: At a time well in advance of the annual congregational meeting, an announcement will be made from the pulpit and in the church publications that nominations for the offices of Elder, Deacon, and Trustee may be received. The opportunity is given to the members of South Daytona Christian Church to present names of scripturally qualified men to the Elders for consideration. Nominating ballots will be made available for a period of at least one month. Nominations for Elder and Deacon will be on one nomination ballot. More than one name may be submitted for each office. All nominees will be considered. The Elders shall conduct interviews for all potential candidates before submitting them to the membership of South Daytona Christian Church.

SECTION 5: Regular Elections: Elections of new officers shall be by written secret ballot by the members of South Daytona Christian Church on or before the last Sunday in October at any regular service.

- (a) The nominating committee shall first call for suggested nominees from the membership no later than the first Sunday in September.
- (b) The nominating committee shall consider all names submitted prior to October 1.
- (c) New Officers will assume their respective appointments November 1.

SECTION 6: Special Elections: It shall be the responsibility of the nominating committee to consider and interview prospects to fill any vacancy occurring during its tenure.

- (a) Nominations shall be announced from the pulpit and by the weekly bulletin at least two (2) weeks prior to the special election called for the purpose of approval or disapproval of the nominees.
- (b) The nominating committee shall interview and recommend names for any additional officers if the need arises. All officers elected at special elections are to take office immediately following the election.

SECTION 7: Corporate Officers: The corporate officers of the church shall be: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Chairman and Vice Chairman must be Elders. The Secretary and Treasurer do not have to be Elders. The corporate year for the purposes of this church shall be the calendar year.

- (a) The Corporate Officers are empowered to act for the church in all matters relating to property and shall be custodial of all matters, documents, deeds and policies concerned therewith. They shall derive their power to act in each specific case relating to a transfer, sale or acquisition of real property as it arises, and as they are directed by a majority vote of the Elders at a meeting specifically called for that purpose. They shall execute, on behalf of the church, all legal documents and discharge such duties as the laws of the State may enjoin upon them.
- (b) A major purchase and/or sale of personal property shall be first proposed by the Elders to the members of South Daytona Christian Church at a regular or special meeting. A majority approval must be obtained from the membership before proceeding. A major purchase or sale will be an amount of \$10,000 or more.
- (c) No papers of any character may be signed on behalf of the church until action has first been approved by the Elders. Any mortgage on, or conveyance of real estate owned by the church must be approved by a majority vote of the membership.

SECTION 8: Removal: Should the qualifications or conduct of an elected officer become questionable, then by 3/4 majority vote of the Elders, reprimand or dismissal from the office will be in order, with right of appeal to the membership of South Daytona Christian Church.

ARTICLE V THE ELDERSHIP

SECTION 1: The Elders shall be the governing body of the church, and as such, will provide oversight to all ministries, departments, and committees. The Church adopts the prerequisites for Elders and their families as they are stated in scripture: 1 Timothy 3:2-7; Titus 1:6-9; and 1 Peter 5:1-3. The Church adopts as duties of the Elders those duties stated in scripture or implied by scriptural example: handle finances (Acts 4:34,35); resolve doctrinal issues (Acts 15:6- 29); keep watch (Acts 20:28); be shepherds (Acts 20:28); be on guard (Acts 20:31); direct the affairs of the church (1 Timothy 5:17); be entrusted with God's work (Titus 1:7); encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it (Titus 1:9); pray over and anoint the sick (James 5:14); serve as overseers (1 Peter 5:2); be examples for the flock (1 Peter 5:3); and speak the Word of God (Hebrews 13 :7).

SECTION 2: A Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary will be selected by the Elders. The Chairman must have been an Elder the prior year.

SECTION 3: All candidates for Eldership shall successfully complete a leadership training program. All existing Elders will be required to complete annual continued education.

SECTION 4: The Elders will meet monthly, or as often as necessary, to review the spiritual condition of the church and to take action on any matters needing their attention.

SECTION 5: Any Elder automatically disqualifies himself by absenting himself without excuse from four (4) Elder meetings in a year or two consecutive Elder meetings. He may be reinstated by Elders agreement at a later date when he has shown evidence of renewed loyalty to Christ and His Church.

ARTICLE VI DEACONS AND MINISTRY LEADERS

SECTION 1: The Deacons and Ministry Leaders are “servants” of the body of Christ and are to act as helpers of the Elders in carrying on the work of the church (Acts 6:1-7). The Church adopts the prerequisites for Deacons and their families as they are stated in Scripture—1 Timothy 3:8-12 (NIV): “Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of

respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well.”

SECTION 2: The Elders, Deacons, and Ministry Leaders shall meet at least, but not limited to, once a quarter to discuss and take action on any matters needing the Elder’s attention.

SECTION 3: The Elders in consultation with the Minister(s) shall choose all ministry leaders deemed essential to the work of the church each year.

ARTICLE VII MINISTER

SECTION 1: The Minister(s) shall be called by the recommendation of the Elders and 85% majority vote of the members present and voting, to serve for an indefinite period of time.

SECTION 2: This relationship may be terminated at any time, either by the Minister(s) or the Eldership on behalf of the members, upon 3/4 vote of the Eldership, at any regular or called meeting, on sixty (60) days notice in writing by either party, unless other arrangements are mutually agreed upon.

SECTION 3: Contractual relationships between the Minister(s) and South Daytona Christian Church, including salary, vacation, conventions, etc., shall be arranged and approved by the Elders.

SECTION 4: Ministers shall be ex-officio members of the Eldership with voting privileges, providing qualifications of an Elder are met, except in matters relating to Article VII, Section 2 .

ARTICLE VIII STAFF MEMBERS

SECTION 1: Terms of employment of all staff members shall be recommended by the Senior Minister and then submitted to the Elders for approval, **along with a signed Statement of Faith.**

ARTICLE IX BUSINESS MEETINGS

SECTION 1: The Elders shall meet regularly each month or as necessary at dates determined annually at the organizational meeting in December.

SECTION 2: Special meetings of the Board of Elders may be held: (a) at the call of the Chairman of the Elders, (b) upon the majority vote of the Elders present at any regular meeting, or (c) upon written request of one-third of the members of the Board.

SECTION 3: Elections: See Article IV, Sections 5 & 6.

SECTION 4: Special meetings of the members of South Daytona Christian Church may be called by the Chairman of the Elders, provided two (2) weeks advance notice of the purpose of the meeting is made from the pulpit and in written communication to the last known address of active members.

ARTICLE X VOTING ARTICLE XVOTING

SECTION 1: Quorums shall consist, respectively, as follows: A quorum for business meetings of South Daytona Christian Church shall be those members of the congregation who are present and voting at a duly

called meeting. A quorum of the Board of Elders shall be a majority of those Elders present and voting at a duly called meeting.

SECTION 2: Absentee ballots may be prepared for any regular or special decision-making meeting of the members of South Daytona Christian Church to be used by request of members in good standing but unable to attend. They must be signed by the member. No proxy votes will be honored.

ARTICLE XI

CHURCH FINANCES

SECTION 1: The Finance Ministry, after consultation with ministry leaders, shall prepare a budget to properly use the monies given for the advancement of the Lord's work. Said budget is to be presented to the Elders for approval, then to the membership for approval at the yearly congregational meeting.

SECTION 2: The Treasurer is to be appointed by the Elders.

SECTION 3: The ministry leaders shall be responsible for the spending of the amounts approved for their ministries in the current budget, according to their best judgement, providing the funds are available.

SECTION 4: All expenditures in excess of the budget, or expenditures not anticipated in the budget, (1) may be subject to a cash flow review by the Finance Ministry and (2) must have approval of the Eldership.

SECTION 5: The Treasurer shall prepare a full financial statement for the Elders each month.

~~**SECTION 6:** The Chairman shall appoint an audit committee to audit the financial records, exclusive of the member-giving records of the Church. Said audit is to be completed at least once a year.~~

ARTICLE XII

MINISTRIES & ORGANIZATIONS

SECTION 1: All auxiliary organizations (Men's, Women's, Youth, Bible School, Day School, After School, etc.) must be organized under the guidance and supervision of the Eldership. Projects to be promoted or assisted, and speakers to be engaged, are subject to the approval of the Eldership in advance.

SECTION 2: Money-making projects shall have the prior approval of the Eldership. They shall not be contrary to the spirit of the New Testament. The work of the church is to be supported chiefly by the tithes and sacrificial offerings of its members. The Bible School and other auxiliary organizations, if any, are a part of the church and shall be subject to the Eldership.

SECTION 3: Teachers and literature of the Bible School, Youth Groups, Day School, After School, etc. are subject to the approval of the Eldership. All officers of auxiliary organizations shall be answerable to the Eldership.

SECTION 4: Ministries shall be setup as deemed necessary by the Elders and Minister(s).

SECTION 5: Elders and Ministers are ex-officio members of all ministries, departments, and committees, with the intent to share wisdom, experience, and spiritual guidance as needed, but not to assume direct leadership control.

~~**SECTION 6:** The church's facilities will not be permitted to persons or groups holding, advancing, or advocating beliefs, or advancing, advocating, or engaging in practices that conflict with the church's faith or moral teachings according to Scripture.~~

ARTICLE XIII AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1: Amendments and/or additions to these By-Laws, provided that no amendment or addition is in any way contrary to the doctrine of the New Testament, may be made.

SECTION 2: A 75% majority vote of those members present and voting at any congregational meeting shall be required for amendment and/or additions to these By-Laws, except Articles II and III, provided that notice of such proposed change shall have been made from the pulpit, and in the church bulletin, at least two weeks in advance. It shall require a 95% majority vote of the members at a duly called meeting to change Articles II and III of these By-Laws.

ARTICLE XIV ARBITRATION CLAUSE

In the event of any controversy arising between any two parties within the church that is irreconcilable under Article III, Section 4, upon application of any interested party, such controversy shall be submitted to an arbitration panel consisting of Elders, Deacons, and full-time Ministers. The arbitration panel shall be selected by the Elders and Ministers not involved in said controversy. As the designated arbitrators, the decision of said panel thereon shall be final, binding, and dispositive, and not subject to review by any civil court.

ARTICLE XV DEFINITIONS

SECTION 1: "Marriage" is the union of one man and one woman sanctioned by God. (Gen 2:22-24, 1 Cor 7:2)

SECTION 2: "Gender"—God creates each person as male and female. Rejection of one's biological gender is the rejection of God's creation. (Gen 1:27,31)