

Bylaws of Hope City House of Prayer

For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place for the worship of the one true God; to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, irrespective of social position or worldly possessions; for the propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ both in home and foreign lands, this church shall be governed by the following Constitution:

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENT:

That, we, the undersigned have this day voluntarily associated ourselves together for the purpose of forming a corporation under the Laws of the State of Ohio, and we hereby certify:

ARTICLE I

As stated in the Articles of Incorporation, the name of the corporate church shall be (Hope City House of Prayer

ARTICLE II

PURPOSES AND POWERS

THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THIS CORPORATION IS FORMED ARE:

- 1 To establish a Biblical Christian Church with a School of the Bible department and with missionary, literature, educational and all other departments it may deem useful to propagate and practice the full Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and for its service to the community.
- 2 It is one purpose of this local church corporation to earnestly seek and promote the unity of God's people in the Scriptural manner of Godly love, respect and faithful voluntary cooperation with liberty. To that end it shall associate and cooperate freely with other churches and with church organizations.
- 3 To act as Trustee under any trust incidental to the principal objects of the corporation and to receive, hold, administer and expend funds and property subject to such trust.
- 4 To enter into, make, perform and carry out contracts of every kind for any lawful purpose without limit as to amount and with any person, firm, association or corporation; to draw, make, accept, endorse, discount, issue and execute promissory notes, warrants and other negotiable or transferable interests.
- 5 To take, purchase or otherwise acquire; to own, hold, occupy, use and enjoy, manage, improve, develop and work; to grant, sell, exchange, let, demise and otherwise dispose of real estate, buildings; and improvements and every right, interest and estate therein without limit as to the amount thereof and wheresoever the same may be situated; to erect, construct, alter and repair buildings; to assume any and every kind of contract, agreement and obligation by or with any person, firm, corporation or association, or any Federal, State or other Government for the erection, construction, alteration, repair, renewal, equipment, improvement, development, use, enjoyment, leasing, management or control of any buildings, improvements or structures of any kind wherever the same may be situated.

- 6 To purchase or otherwise acquire, to own, hold, use and enjoy, to sell, assign and transfer, exchange or otherwise dispose of, deal in or deal with personal property of every kind and description without limit as to the amount thereof and wheresoever the same may be situated.
- 7 To borrow and to loan money and to give and to receive evidence of indebtedness and security thereof; to draw, make accept, endorse, execute, and issue promissory notes, warrants, and other debentures of the corporation, or otherwise to make guarantees of every kind and secure any or all obligations of the corporation by mortgage, trust deed or otherwise.
- 8 To do all other acts necessary or expedient for the administration of the affairs and attainment of the purposes of the corporation and to have and exercise all the powers now or hereafter conferred by the Laws of the State of Your State, upon non-profit corporations.

ARTICLE III

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

This corporation is organized pursuant to the General Non-Profit Corporation Law of the State of Ohio; the property of this corporation is irrevocably dedicated to religious and charitable purposes, and upon liquidation, dissolution, or abandonment, shall not inure to the benefit of any private person except a fund, foundation, or corporation organized and operated for religious or charitable purposes and as designated in Article X of this Constitution.

ARTICLE IV

ORDINANCES

(A) The ordinance of Baptism by immersion in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost as commanded in the Scriptures, shall be administered to all those who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls and who give clear evidence of their fruit (Matthew 28:19, Colossians 2:12).

(B) The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly as a part of public worship, as commanded by the Lord (Luke 22:19, 20; I Corinthians 11:23-26).

PRIVILEGES

(C) Infants and small children may be dedicated to the Lord in the church upon the request of the parents or guardians (Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15, 16).

(D) The ministration of laying on of hands accompanied with the anointing with oil, for the healing of the sick, shall be granted as a request is made and the need may require (Mark 16:18; James 5:14).

ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP

Membership in Hope City House of Prayer shall be eligible to all who give evidence to their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and who voluntarily hold to the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith. When a person chooses to be a part of Hope City House of Prayer and involve themselves they are automatically considered a member (Ephesians 4:16). A member is one who attends regularly, serves at and contributes financially to Hope City House of Prayer.

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS

The officers of Hope City House of Prayer shall consist of a President, and Secretary-Treasurer. The pastor shall be considered the President of the Corporation. There shall not be less than three (3) and no more than nine (9) officers (directors) at any time. The board of directors shall handle the business of the church and therefore should be business minded. They should see into the spiritual side of all business as well. These should lay hold of the vision given them and see it is implemented.

PASTOR AND PRESIDENT

Section 1. Term of Office: The Pastor is the President of the Corporation. He is also an Elder holding the office of pastor. He shall hold this office until his death or until he resigns.

Section 2. Vacancy of Pastorate: The vacancy shall be filled by the appointment of a new pastor by the departing pastor or the Board of Elders when the departing pastor is not available to do so. In some cases a Pulpit Search Committee may be selected who will search for pastoral candidates and submit them to the departing pastor and/or elders for final approval. In most cases, when able, it is best to follow the examples set forth in scripture of the person called by God (pastor or other fivefold minister) to pass the mantle on to the one God has chosen and shown him (Joshua 1, 1 Kings 19:19-21, 2 Kings 2:1-14). Imparting the anointing and call of God to the one who has already proven themselves to be faithful (2 Timothy 2:2, Luke 16:12).

Section 3. Duties of Pastor: The Pastor shall be considered the spiritual overseer of the church and shall direct all the church activities. He shall preside over all business meetings of the church and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and departments.

Section 4. Support of Pastor: The Pastor shall be supported according to his needs, either by free-will offerings or by stated allowance as shall be decided upon by the Directors and/or Elders in its regular business sessions.

SECRETARY-TREASURER

The Secretary-Treasurer of the Corporation shall be appointed by the Pastor and ratified by the Elders. A secretary or administrative assistant may be utilized in the day-to-day record keeping (accounts receivable and payable) as is necessary.

DIRECTORS

Directors shall be appointed by the Pastor and ratified by the Elders. The Board of Elders shall fill the office of Directors and officers of the Corporation when qualified persons are lacking to fill such positions.

BOARD OF ELDERS

The Board of Elders shall be appointed by the Pastor. There shall not be less than three (3) and no more than nine (9). They are to be called upon to fill the pulpit, to pray for the sick, visit newcomers, shut-ins, absentees, and hospital visitation. They shall also, along with the Pastor, seek God's direction for the church, and support the pastor in the vision given him by God, in the church's present and future ministry. Elders shall remain so until they resign or are deemed unfit.

Requirements: An Elder must be deemed faithful according to the biblical requirements and a member of Hope City House of Prayer.

DEACONS

The Pastor and/or Board of Elders shall appoint the Board of Deacons. There shall never be less than four members on the Board of Deacons. The Board of Deacons shall act in conjunction with and to aid the Pastor in all matters of Hope City House of Prayer. They shall act in the determination of the meeting of material needs (i.e., food, clothing, financial, etc.) of any one who might seem to be in need whether they are a part of the Church or not. They may also aid the Pastor in any of the ordinances.

Requirements: A Deacon must be deemed faithful according to the biblical requirements and a member of Hope City House of Prayer.

In case of a lack of qualified persons to fill the Board of Deacons, the Elders shall act as the Deacons until the Board of Deacons is established.

COMMUNION BOARD

The Board of Deacons and the Board of Elders shall act as the Communion Board. One man shall be appointed to serve as Chairman of the Communion Board. It shall be his duty to make arrangements for the preparation and serving of communion when announced by the Pastor.

VACANCY OF OFFICES

The Pastor and President of the Corporation shall have the authority to declare any office vacant. Grounds for such action shall be:

- 1 Failure to cooperate with the church's program and ministry.
- 2 Unscriptural conduct.
- 3 Doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith.
- 4 For any good and sufficient cause. Any incumbent under charges shall have opportunity for a fair and impartial hearing before the joint meeting of the Board of Elders shall be considered final and the incumbent may have no further recourse.

ARTICLE VII MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings for Worship. Meetings for public worship shall be held on each Lord's Day and during the week as may be provided for under the direction of the Pastor.

Section 2. Annual business meeting. There shall be an Annual Business Meeting of (Hope City House of Prayer. This business meeting shall be held at the end of the fiscal year. This meeting shall be conducted in the auditorium of Hope City House of Prayer. New officers, elders and deacons shall be installed and all reports shall be read at the Annual Business Meeting.

Section 3. Special business meetings. Special business meetings of the legal members may be called by the pastor or by written petition of three-fourths (3/4) of the legal membership.

Section 4. Notice of business meetings. Written notice of the date and place of the Annual Business Meeting and of any special business meetings shall be sent by regular mail to all active members at least ten (10) days and not more than thirty days prior to such meeting. In addition, the pastor shall announce such meeting at the worship services of Hope City House of Prayer at least ten (10) days prior to such meeting.

Section 5. Quorum. No record of any special or regular business meetings of Hope City House of Prayer shall be made unless one-half (1/2) or more legal members are present to constitute a quorum.

Section 6. Order of Business. The regular order of business for the Annual Business Meeting of (insert name of church) shall be as follows:

- 1 Devotional.
- 2 Reading of previous minutes.
- 3 Report of the treasurer.
- 4 Report of committees.
- 5 Unfinished business.
- 6 Installation of officers.
- 7 New business.
- 8 Adjournment.

This order of business may be altered or suspended at any meeting by a majority vote of the members present. The usual parliamentary rules as laid down in "Robert's Rules of Order" shall govern all debates when not in conflict with this Constitution.

ARTICLE VIII FINANCES

- 1 All funds needed for the maintenance of Hope City House of Prayer shall be provided by voluntary contributions, tithes and offerings. Every member shall decide before God what he or she can cheerfully give to the support of the Lord's work at home and in the foreign field (Malachi 3:10, I Corinthians 16:1-2; Romans 12:8).
- 2 All offerings shall be counted by at least two members.
- 3 Deposits must be made by Hope City House of Prayer promptly in a local bank.
- 4 A separate account will be established for Hope City House of Prayer.
- 5 Annual reports will be furnished to the officers and made available to the membership upon request only.
- 6 The treasurer must be a board member (officer/director). However, a secretary or administrative assistant may be utilized in the day-to-day record keeping as necessary.
- 7 Financial records, without exception, are to be kept in the church office.
- 8 The Pastor shall act as overseer of all financial activities.

ARTICLE IX DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES

The church shall provide for the establishment of a School of the Bible Department, young people's work, relief committees, home and foreign missionary committees, and any other departments or committees as the needs of the work may require. These committees and departments shall be subordinate to the church and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. They shall be under the general supervision of the Board of Elders. The pastor shall be an ex-official member of all committees or departments and shall determine when the need for such committees and departments must be organized.

ARTICLE X PROPERTY

The Officers of Hope City House of Prayer shall have power to carry out all of the purposes and powers set forth in Article II. The President's signature shall be sufficient certificate for negotiating any and all of the provided powers in said Articles.

ARTICLE XI AMENDMENT

This Constitution may be amended or changed by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the officers (directors) at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided due notice of such proposed change shall have been made.

**ARTICLE XII
ORGANIZATION**

Said organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious and educational purposes, including 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 XIII
CONDUCT OF ORGANIZATION**

No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

**ARTICLE XIV
DISSOLUTION**

Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall 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 the Court of common pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization 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.