

ROCKY RIVER CHURCH, INC.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I: PURPOSE

Rocky River Church (“*the Church*”) is an autonomous assembly of professed believers in Jesus Christ, who are voluntarily joined together for the purpose of worship, study of the Word of God, observance of the ordinances, Christian fellowship, and equipping for Christian service. The Church is seeking to be a community of grace that holds each other accountable to live a life glorifying to God, through fellowship, discipleship and outreach.

ARTICLE II: TEACHING AND PREACHING MINISTRY

All teaching and preaching at the Church shall be grounded in and supported by the Bible and shall be consistent with the Church's Statement of Faith.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership

Membership in the Church shall be open to all persons who confess Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord. Membership in the Church shall not vest in any Member any proprietary rights in the Corporation but shall only entitle the Member to vote at meetings of the Members on those matters submitted to the church Membership by the Elders.

Section 2. Membership Class

The Membership class shall be offered on an as-needed basis. Attendance in the Membership class, and successful completion of the work outlined in the class is a mandatory requirement for Membership. During attendance of the class each attendee shall be given a copy of the Church's Statement of Faith and Bylaws, in addition to other such materials as shall be deemed necessary by the Elders. At the conclusion of the class, each applicant shall give his or her testimony of faith in Christ as Lord and Savior to the Elders or their designated representative(s). Each applicant shall complete a Membership application and sign it. Upon being accepted into Membership, a new Member shall attest to his or her commitment to the Church by signing the Membership Covenant.

Section 3. Denial of Membership

Upon review of an application for Membership or after meeting with a prospective Member, if the Elders determine that (a) the applicant does not confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, (b) there is evidence of an ungodly lifestyle, (c) there is substantial disagreement with the Statement of Faith of the Church, or (d) any other reason deemed sufficient by the Elders, the application for Membership shall be denied.

Section 4. Acknowledgment of Members

Persons admitted to Membership shall be publicly acknowledged as Members.

Section 5. Discipline of Members

Members are under the spiritual authority, governance, and discipline (both formative and corrective) of the Elders of the Church. Members who harbor substantial error in doctrine or conduct shall be subject to discipline and/or expulsion from membership according to Matthew 18:15-18 and other passages of Scripture, under the direction of the Elders. An attempted withdrawal of membership by a Member currently under corrective church discipline by the Church does not prevent the Church from continuing the discipline process to its completion, including expulsion from membership.

Section 6. Withdrawal of Membership

A Member may voluntarily withdraw his or her membership in the Church at any time, by providing a written notice thereof to the Elders, except that a member who is then under corrective church discipline by the Church may not withdraw his or her membership while the discipline process is not yet completed. Any such withdrawal of membership shall take effect at the date of the receipt of such notice or at any later time specified therein.

Section 7. Removal from Register of Members

The Lead Pastor shall cause to be kept a register of the Members of the Church. A Member shall be removed from the Church's register of Members under any of the following conditions:

- (1) The Member's withdrawal of membership pursuant to Section 6 of this Article III.
- (2) The Member's expulsion from membership as part of the corrective discipline of the Member by the Church.
- (3) The Member's non-participation in the Church according to policy established by the Elders.
- (4) The Member's death.

Section 8. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Members may be called at any time by request of the Elders, or by written request, signed and dated, of at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the Members and delivered to the Elders.

Section 9. Quorum and Voting Rights

A majority of the Members, in person, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Members. The act of seventy-five percent (75%) of the Members present at any meeting at which there is a quorum shall be the act of the Members, except as may be otherwise provided by law, the Articles of Incorporation, or these Bylaws. Members whose names are recorded in the register of Members on the day of any meeting of the Members shall be entitled to vote at the meeting on matters submitted to the Members by the Elders. The Members shall be asked to vote on the following:

- A. The amendment of the Bylaws of the Church, with respect to any provisions that increase, limit, or otherwise change the rights or responsibilities of the Members.
- B. The purchase, sale, or encumbrance of any real property.

ARTICLE IV: DISCIPLESHIP

Section 1. Discipleship Class

From time to time, as needed, the Church shall conduct a discipleship class. In this class, the participants shall be taught the Biblical truths about faith in Christ, growth in Christ, and service for Christ. Successful completion of this class shall be required for a person to serve in a leadership position in the Church.

Section 2. Qualifications for Leaders

Each Leader in the Church must be an active Member of the Church, must complete the discipleship class, and must, in the determination of the Elders, possess the spiritual gifts and calling necessary for the ministry which the Leader will perform.

ARTICLE V: ELDERS

Section 1. Rights and Responsibilities

Subject to any limitations in the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws, the spiritual and doctrinal oversight of the congregation, and all the activities and affairs of the Church shall be conducted by, or shall be under the direction of, the Elders. Without limitation of such general responsibilities, the Elders shall have the following responsibilities in addition to the other responsibilities provided in these Bylaws:

A. To select and remove the pastors of the Church, with the approval of the Chairman of the Elders.

B. To amend the Bylaws of the Church; provided, that any provisions of the Bylaws that increase, limit, or otherwise change the rights or responsibilities of the Members must be approved by the Members. The Members of the Church shall be informed of all changes to the Bylaws.

C. To amend the Statement of Faith of the Church.

D. To settle disputes. In any impasse arising between a Member of the Church, its pastors or staff pertaining to any matters of spiritual teaching or practices, the dispute shall be resolved by the Elders. Dispute resolution of any other kind should be conducted according to Scriptural principles (e.g., Matthew 18:15-20), beginning with the individuals involved in the dispute.

E. To approve individuals for ordination as ministers of the gospel. The Elders have responsibility and authority to **(1)** determine the qualifications and procedures for obtaining ordination for Christian ministry, **(2)** affirm God's call upon a person's life; **(3)** to verify that the person meets the qualifications and standards of the Church for ministry; **(4)** to approve the person for ministerial service; and **(5)** to provide legal status in the exercise of that person's ministry.

Section 2. Number

The number of Elders of the Church shall not be less than two (2). There may be as many Elders as are needed to fulfill the purpose of the Church stated in Article I of these Bylaws.

Section 3. Qualifications

Each Elder must be male, be an active Member of the Church, and meet the Scriptural qualifications required of Elders, including those in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.

Section 4. Selection

The selection of new Elders shall be effected through the following process:

- A.** The initial Elders shall be appointed by the initial directors of Rocky River Church, a Tennessee not-for-profit corporation.
- B.** Thereafter, the Elders will regularly review all the men in the body as to their potential qualification as Elders. The Elders shall also provide for suggestions from the congregation for the position of Elders.
- C.** The Elders shall carefully review each potential candidate according to the Scriptural qualifications and make a tentative selection.
- D.** The Elders shall then present the proposed Elders to the Members. The Members shall have twenty-one (21) days in which to voice their affirmation or concern regarding a proposed Elder. Such words of affirmation or concern shall be expressed personally to an Elder or by a written and signed letter to the Elders.
- E.** Following such twenty-one (21) day period, the Elders shall make the final selection of new Elder(s).
- F.** Such new Elders shall, at a special meeting of the Members, be presented to the Members for a vote of acceptance.
- G.** Should such an Elder be accepted by the Members, he shall be installed and immediately begin his duties. Should such an Elder be rejected by the Members, the Elders will make a final decision after holding a meeting of the Elders.

Section 5. Term of Office

The term of office for each Elder shall be two (2) years. Upon satisfactory review of an Elder by the other Elders at the conclusion of his term, the Elder may succeed himself in office by serving another two (2) year term. An Elder may succeed himself in office for an unlimited number of terms. Each Elder shall undergo a review process, which shall include an evaluation by the other Elders, prior to the completion of each two (2) year term.

Section 6. Elder Cards

- A.** Each Elder will be selected by the Elders. They will receive their “Elders Card” as soon as they take office as an Elder of Rocky River Church.
- B.** Each Elder will hold their “Elders Card” for as long as they are an Elder within’ Rocky River Church. If they choose to leave the church or organization, they will have to turn back in their “Elders Card” & their “Certificate of Eldership” to the Chairman of the Elders.
- C.** Each Elder serves a (2) year term and will receive 2 cards each year. The 1st card will be for the first 6 months and the 2nd card will be for the 2nd 6 months and so on until their term ends.
- D.** The Chairman of the Elders will be able to pull your card at any point in time for reasons listed **(a)** You have started living a life of sin and you don’t need to serve in the position **(b)** You haven’t been active in worship for a month or longer **(c)** If you don’t show up for the monthly Elders meeting held by the Elders of the church **(d)** If something comes out into the open that you never told the Elders about in your life that caused the church to have a bad reputation.

Section 7. Resignation and Removal

A. Resignation: An Elder may resign from his position as Elder at any time by providing a written notice of resignation, stating the reasons thereof, delivered to the Chairman of the Elders. Any such resignation shall take effect at the date of the receipt of such notice or at any later time specified therein.

B. Removal: Any Elder may be removed from office, upon an affirmative vote of eighty percent (80%) of the Elders except the Elder being considered for removal, under any of the following conditions:

- (1) The Elder becomes physically or mentally incapacitated.
- (2) The Elder no longer meets the qualifications of an Elder (see Section 3 of this Article V).
- (3) The Elder's inability to serve is otherwise established in the judgment of the other Elders.

Section 8. Meetings

A. Regular Meetings: Regular meetings of the Elders shall be held as determined by the Elders.

B. Special Meetings: Special meetings of the Elders may be called at any time by the Chairman of the Elders. Every reasonable effort shall be made to notify each Elder of a special meeting.

C. Attendance at Elder Meetings: Meetings of the Elders may be open to Members of the Church at the discretion of the Elders.

Section 9. Annual Meetings

An annual meeting of the Elders shall be held each year, in conjunction with the preparation of the annual budget for the following year.

Section 10. Quorum and Voting Rights

A. Quorum: Eighty percent (80%) of the Elders then in office, in person, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Elders. No meeting of the Elders shall transact official business as per Section 1 of this Article V in the absence of a quorum.

B. Voting Rights. The act of eighty percent (80%) of the Elders then in office shall be the act of the Elders, except as may be otherwise provided by law, the Articles of Incorporation, or these Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI: PASTORS

Section 1. Pastors

The Pastors of the Church shall be a Lead Pastor, a Team Pastor and such other pastors as the Elders may from time to time deem necessary.

Section 2. Qualifications

Each Pastor must be male, be an active Member of the Church, taken the churches' Discipleship Class and meet the Scriptural qualifications required of Elders, including those in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. With the exception of the Lead Pastor, pastors may or may not be selected from men who are currently serving as an Elder of the Church.

Section 3. Lead Pastor

A. The Lead Pastor shall serve as an Elder of the Church.

B. The Lead Pastor shall serve as the Chairman of the Board of Elders.

C. The Lead Pastor shall provide the general supervision, direction, and control of the activities, ministries and operations and the other pastors and leaders of the Church.

D. The Lead Pastor shall preside at all regular and special meetings of the Members and of the Elders.

E. The Lead Pastor shall perform such other duties as shall from time to time be assigned by the Elders.

Section 4. Team Pastor

A. The Team Pastor shall assist the Lead Pastor in the supervision and direction of the activities, ministries and operations and the other pastors and leaders of the Church.

B. The Team Pastor shall serve under the supervision and direction of the Lead Pastor.

C. The Team Pastor shall perform such other duties as shall from time to time be assigned by the Elders.

Section 5. Other Pastors

A. All other pastors of the Church, if any, shall be selected by the Elders of the Church and shall serve under the supervision and direction of the Lead Pastor.

ARTICLE VII: MINISTERS

Section 1. Temporary Ministers

A. From time to time, the pastors of the church may guide new ministers of the Gospel within Rocky River Church. Each new Temporary Minister has to be approved by the Elders of the Church before they can start preaching the Gospel.

B. Each Temporary Minister will have to take Rocky River Church “Discipleship Course” before they start preaching the Gospel.

C. Each Temporary Minister, if approved by the Elders, will be given a “Temporary Ministers Card”. Each Minister that is given a card will preach for 1 year total before they can be licensed as a Minister of the Gospel within’ Rocky River Church.

D. Each Temporary Minister will receive 4 cards within’ a 1 year time period. The 1st card will be given for the first 3 months. The 2nd card will be given for the next 3 months and so on until they have reached the end of the year holding their 4th temporary ministers card.

E. If a Temporary Minister within’ Rocky River Church reaches the end of their 1st year holding their 4th Temporary Ministers Card and with good standing, has been a strong man in the Lord, held strong in the Word of God, and has preached at least 1 time a month each month out of that year, they will be Licensed as a Minister of the Gospel within’ New Freedom Ministries.

F. The Elders of the Church will be able to pull your card at any point in time for reasons listed (a) You have started living a life of sin and you don’t need to be behind the pulpit (b) You haven’t been active in worship for a month or longer (c) If you don’t show up for the monthly ministers meeting held by the pastors of the church (d) If something comes out into the open that you never told the Elders about in your life that caused the church to have a bad reputation.

Section 2. Licensed Ministers

A. Each Temporary Minister will go before the Elders before they receive their “Licensed Ministers Card” to talk about what God has done for them in the past year. The Elders will then approved their Licensed Ministers Card based on what they have seen in the past year.

B. Each Licensed Minister will hold their “Licensed Ministers Card” for as long as they are a Licensed Minister within’ Rocky River Church.

C. Each Licensed Minister will receive 2 cards each year. The 1st card will be for the first 6 months & the 2nd card will be for the 2nd 6 months.

D. The Elders of the Church will be able to pull your card at any point in time for reasons listed

(**a**) You have started living a life of sin and you don’t need to be behind the pulpit (**b**) You haven’t been active in worship for a month or longer (**c**) If you don’t show up for the monthly ministers meeting held by the pastors of the church (**d**) If something comes out into the open that you never told the Elders about in your life that caused the church to have a bad reputation.

E. If a Licensed Minister chooses to leave the church or organization, they will have to turn back in their “Licensed Ministers Card” & their “Certificate of License” to the Elders of Rocky River Church.

Section 3. Ordained Ministers

A. Being Ordained within’ Rocky River Church is a very special privilege. There is no set time for Licensed Ministers to become Ordained.

B. If the Elders think that a Licensed Minister is ready to become Ordained, and has met every qualification to be able to be, then the Elders will bring it up at a meeting of the Elders. If they vote to ordain a Minister of the Gospel, then the Elders will have a special meeting with that Minister before Ordained Ceremony.

C. Each Ordained Minister of the Church will hold their “Ordained Ministers Card” for 1 year. Their cards will be updated every year as they continue in the ministry of Rocky River Church. If they choose to leave the church at any time, they will have to hand back in their “Ordained Ministers Card” and their “Certificate of Ordination” to the Elders of the Church before they leave for a different path in ministry.

ARTICLE VIII: OTHER PROVISIONS

Section 1. Weddings

The Ordained Ministers within’ Rocky River Church are authorized to perform the ceremony of Christian marriage, whether inside or outside the facilities of the Church, if, and only if, the following conditions have been fulfilled: (**a**) the couple being married are one man and one woman, based on the Church’s belief that the Bible defines marriage as a covenantal relationship between one man and one woman for life; (**b**) either the man or the woman being married either is a Member of the Church or attends the Church’s Sunday morning worship service on a regular basis; and (**c**) the man and the woman being married both participate fully in a process of premarital counseling conducted or prescribed by the Elders of the Church.

Section 2. Gifts. The Elders may accept on behalf of the Church any contribution, gift, bequest or devise for the general purposes or for any special purpose of the Church.

Approved: September 23rd, 2020