

BY-LAWS OF  
ATLANTA CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
ATLANTA, IL  
(Adopted by membership vote: January 21, 2018)

**Preamble**

We, the members of Atlanta Christian Church, Inc., in order to comply with the legal guidelines of the State of Illinois and promote the work of the Kingdom of God, and in the spirit of His Divine name, do hereby adopt these BY-LAWS as our rules of operation and governance.

**Article I: Name and Location**

The name of the corporation is Atlanta Christian Church, Inc., commonly referred to as ACC. The principle office of the corporation is located at 300 NE Third Street; PO Box 427, Atlanta, IL 61723.

**Article II: Purpose**

The Purpose of ACC is to make people mature followers of Jesus Christ.

**Article III: Membership**

- The members of ACC shall be those persons who meet the membership criteria set forth in the New Testament:
  - ✓ Have worshiped regularly at ACC and supported ACC's vision by attendance, service, and financial support; and
  
  - ✓ Have professed an experience of salvation by confessing faith in Jesus Christ and strive to live in harmony with the doctrine and practice of the Bible, the inerrant, inspired Word of God; and
  
  - ✓ Been baptized (by immersion) into Christ (Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:27; Romans 6:3-5).

## Article IV: Government

### Section 1 ACC Autonomy

- ACC is and will remain a non-denominational and self-governing entity, subject to no other ecclesiastical or political body.

### Section 2. Elders

- Elders shall be selected and affirmed in conformity with the New Testament principles found in 1 Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9; 1 Peter 5:2-4. Paid ministerial staff are considered non-voting elders. They shall serve and comprise part of the Leadership Team.
- Selection of Elders:
  - ✓ To qualify as an Elder, a candidate must be an active member of ACC, must be deemed by the Leadership Team to closely fulfill the Biblical model of discipline and must display the spiritual gift of leadership so as to be capable of discerning the will of God for the direction and vision of ACC.
  - ✓ Before being considered for appointment, each candidate shall be screened by the Leadership Team, shall state his desire for the work of an Elder, and shall be informed of the responsibilities of an Elder at ACC. After further screening and prayer, the Elder candidate will be affirmed by the congregation. Congressional affirmation of an Elder nominee will consist of a fourteen-day period after an individual has been announced to the congregation during which members can bring concerns directly to the Leadership Team for discussion. Barring any legitimate concern that would biblically disqualify the nominee, the nominee will be affirmed.
- The Elders shall be responsible for all decisions made with regards to all legal dealings or transactions regarding ACC. Such decisions shall be made with consideration of all that is written in these bylaws.

### Section 3. Leadership Team

- The Leadership Team of ACC will consist of the Elders and the following ACC staff.
  - ✓ The paid Ministerial staff of ACC. (for example: senior minister, worship minister, youth minister, etc.)
- The Leadership Team shall have oversight of the operations and direction of ACC, including hiring, terminating, and disciplining staff members.
- The Leadership Team may delegate these responsibilities, from time to time, in whole or in part, to one or more staff members, or to a committee of members/ministry team appointed by the Leadership Team for that purpose.
- The Leadership Team shall draft and/or adopt policies and procedures as necessary to enable ACC to carry out its stated purpose and vision.

### Section 4. Officers

- The officers of ACC shall consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. Officers shall be selected by the Elders from the Leadership Team, on an annual basis, to serve one (1) year terms.
- The Leadership Team shall also appoint a Financial Secretary from among the members of the Finance Ministry Team. Finance Ministry Team members are active members that are recommended by the Treasurer and voted on by the current Finance Ministry Team. These individuals will display the spiritual gift of stewardship so as to be capable of discerning the will of God for the direction and vision of ACC, and who possess the skills and abilities to carry out their position.
- In addition to any other duties assigned to them, the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary of the Leadership Team shall have the powers and duties of Trustees under the Illinois Religious Corporation Act, including, when directed, the power to enter into lawful contracts in the name of and in behalf of ACC and mortgage, encumber, sell, and convey any real or personal property of ACC.

## Section 5. Church Discipline

- ACC, through the discretion of the Leadership Team, reserves the right to practice disciplinary procedures as described in the New Testament. In all matters herein where the standard to be applied is the New Testament, the final interpretation of what the New Testament says on all issues shall be determined by the Elders.

## Section 6. Financial Records

- The Treasurer and the Financial Secretary shall have care and custody of the funds and financial records of ACC, and shall at all reasonable times exhibit the financial records to any ACC member. However, the Director of Administration shall also keep a confidential record of all individual giving to ACC, which shall not be available for inspection by anyone other than the Elders and State and Federal Tax Authorities.

## **Article V: Meetings**

### Section 1. Active Members

- There shall be an annual business meeting of the ACC active members during the month of January, or at such other time(s) as the Leadership Team may specify, for the purpose of conducting ACC business.
- Special meetings of the active members may be called by the Leadership Team or a majority of active members. An active member is defined as someone listed on the church membership roll and demonstrates support of the church through regular attendance (minimum of 50% in a calendar year) and faithful giving. Matthew 6:21
- At least seven days' notice of any members' business meeting shall be given through the ACC newsletter, website, church app or by posting of notices on the ACC property and/or in regular church services stating time, place and purpose.
- Voting ACC members, that are active and 18 years and older, may vote at a business meeting. A **signed** absentee ballot is valid if returned to the Leadership Team before the meeting. Only one absentee ballot will be given to each voting member of ACC.

## Section 2. Majority vote

- Unless these By-laws state otherwise, a simple majority of the members' present (or by absentee ballot) may transact business at any properly called meeting.

## Section 3. Quorum

- No minimum number or percentage of members is required for quorum purposes at a properly called member's business meeting.

### **Article VI: Ministry Teams and Workgroups**

The Leadership Team shall appoint Ministry Teams and Working groups to accomplish some of its work. These teams shall have clear deadlines and demarcations of functions.

Elders shall be an ex-officio member of every Ministry Team and Working group. Any decision(s) or action recommended by any Ministry Team or Working Group that affects, modifies, or circumvents these By-laws must be approved by the Leadership Team before becoming effective.

### **Article VII: Marriage**

Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between one man, one woman, and Himself, ACC will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman as each person was designated by a medical doctor at the person's birth and evidenced by the person's original birth certificate.

Further, the ministers and staff of ACC shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman as each person was designated by a medical doctor at the person birth and evidence by the person's original birth certificate.

Finally, the facilities and property of ACC shall only host marriage related events between one man and one woman as each person was designated by a medical doctor at the person birth and evidence by the person's original birth certificate.

## **Article VIII: Capital Expenditures**

All major building projects or capital expenditures which exceeds \$50,000 requires separate approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the Elders and two-thirds (2/3) of the active and voting members of ACC present at the meeting called for the purpose of considering such a transaction, purchase or sale.

## **Article IX: IRS Provisions and Disposition of Assets Upon Dissolution**

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private person, except that the corporation 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 these By-Laws.

No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding provisions of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section o any future federal tax code.

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, 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 as selected by the Elders. In lieu of the absence of Elders, selection will be made by 2/3 of active and voting members.

## **Article X: Liability and Indemnification**

### **Section 1. Liability**

- The Elders, Leadership Team and Officers of ACC shall not, by reason of their service or activities, be personally liable for any of ACC's debts, obligations, or liabilities.

## Section 2. Indemnification

- ACC shall indemnify Elders, Leadership Team and Officers of ACC against expenses incurred in connection with the defense of any action, suit, or proceeding in which he is made a party by reason of being, or having been, such Elder or officer, to the maximum extent permitted by law. Such indemnification shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which such Elder or officer may be entitled under these Bylaws, any agreement, action of the Elders, or otherwise.

## **Article XI: Amendments**

These Bylaws may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of active and voting members of ACC present at a meeting specifically called for that purpose.