

Northshore Christian Church

Constitution and By-Laws

Article 1 – Name

This congregation was formed on April 17, 2005 as an unincorporated association of believers, and shall be a Church named Northshore Christian Church.

Article 2 – Mission Statement

The Mission of Northshore Christian Church is: 1) *The Great Commandment* - "*The most important one,*" answered Jesus, "*is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.'*" (Mark 12:29-31 NIV), and 2) *The Great Commission* – "*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*" (Matthew 28:19-20 NIV)

Article 3 – Authority

The Bible shall be the final and absolute authority in all matters of faith and practice, including the governing of Northshore Christian Church. Refer to the following addendums for more detail.

- I. Statement of Beliefs and Practices.
- II. Sanctity of Life.
- III. Spirituality vs. Christianity.
- IV. Divorce and Remarriage.
- V. Sexual Morality.
- VI. Roles of Women.
- VII. Children in Church.

Article 4 – Autonomy

Northshore Christian Church is a free and autonomous body, which shall forever remain free and independent of all other organizations, religious or secular.

Article 5 – Leadership

The Leadership of Northshore Christian Church shall be comprised of a Biblical Eldership. All Final decisions will be the responsibility of the Eldership. The Eldership may seek input from the church body when appropriate.

Article 6 – Eldership

- I. The leaders of Northshore Christian Church shall be known as "Elders".
- II. The Eldership is responsible for the oversight of Northshore Christian Church and its ministry to the body and community.
- III. The qualifications for Elder are listed in the New Testament including, but not limited to Acts 20:28; I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9 and I Peter 5:1-4.
- IV. An Eldership must consist of at least three qualified men.
- V. Suggestions or input will be gathered from the congregation regarding current and future Elders. However, current Elders bear the responsibility before God to ensure all men meet biblical qualifications (see 6.III)
- VI. An examination period will take place and input from the congregation will be sought as to the qualification of the potential Elder(s). Any concerns/affirmations should be brought to the attention of the candidate and then to the current leadership for evaluation. After the examination period, the current Elders will make a final determination. At any time at the sole discretion of

the Eldership, candidates for new Elders may be sought from within Northshore Christian Church.

- VII. If there is not a complete Eldership available from within Northshore Christian Church, the most qualified men available may be appointed as interim leaders until qualified Elders are available.
- VIII. Since the purpose of spiritual leadership is to serve the Body of Christ, it is important that the leadership seek the counsel, input, and help of the congregation, as decisions need to be made. Since spiritual leadership is important to the direction, protection and nurturing of the Body of Christ, it is important that the congregation lend full support, prayer, and encouragement to its leaders.
 - a. A majority of the elders shall be required to be present to make decisions for Northshore Christian Church.
 - b. The decision-making process by the Eldership will be by unanimity.
- IX. Each Elder is accountable first and foremost to God. However, the Elders are also accountable to one-another to continue to meet the conditions of the position as outlined in Article 6.III. Any Elder may be removed from the Eldership by unanimous vote of the remaining Elders if he no longer meets the requirements of the position in Article 6.III.
- X. An Elder's term is not limited biblically. An Elder may continue to serve, provided he has the desire and still meets the biblical qualifications to be an Elder.

Article 7 – Staff

- I. The staff shall consist of any positions deemed necessary by the Eldership. Specific roles, responsibilities, and structure shall be clarified in the individual staff job descriptions. A written agreement setting forth the conditions of employment for each staff position shall be made between the staff person and the Eldership.
- II. Any staff may be an Elder, subject to article 6. If he is an Elder, he will still be responsible to the direction of the Elders as a whole.
- III. If an Elder is a staff member, or candidate for staff, all decisions about appointing or removing a staff member shall be made with said Elder abstaining from voting.
- IV. Staff positions may be dissolved by either the Eldership or the staff person with 60 days written notice or as otherwise provided for in the written agreement.

Article 8 – Steering Committee

On February 14, 2005, a Steering Committee was established to oversee the initial formation and leadership of Northshore Christian Church. The Steering Committee dissolved upon the establishment of the Eldership on June 12, 2005.

Article 9 – Fellowship

- I. As a part of the greater Body of Christ, Northshore Christian Church welcomes all who have received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior through the terms of pardon as recorded in the New Testament: Faith (Acts 16:31); Repentance (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38 and 17:30); Confession (Romans 10:9,10); and Immersion (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:4). Joining with Northshore Christian Church is not a matter of placed membership, rather through involvement, service, and personal relationships.
- II. Conduct unbecoming a Christian, as specified in the New Testament shall be sufficient grounds for discipline, including removal from fellowship, as determined by the Eldership. The ultimate purpose of discipline is to lead the person to repentance and ultimate restoration within the body of Christ. The procedure for corrective discipline is found in Matthew 18:15-18.

Article 10 – Congregational Meetings

- I. All congregational meetings (minimum of 1 per year) shall be overseen by the Eldership. Some topics included in a congregational meeting may be: financial review of the previous year, review of the budget for current year, evaluation of Northshore Christian Church progress towards fulfilling our mission statement, and announcing goals for the upcoming year.
- II. The Eldership shall have the responsibility of calling congregational meetings to solicit opinions on any matter or for conveying information to the congregation.

Article 11 – Finances

- I. The fiscal year for Northshore Christian Church shall be from January 1st to December 31st of each year.
- II. The income of Northshore Christian Church shall be derived primarily from tithes, offerings, and gifts.
- III. Proper accounting and control of income from all sources shall be established and maintained by the Finance Team as appointed by the Elders.
- IV. The Finance Team shall be responsible for monitoring and controlling the expenditures of Northshore Christian Church funds guided by the Northshore Christian Church Eldership.
- V. Financial records are open to the church body for review at any time. An independent audit may be performed if there is reasonable inquiry and concern by the body, and deemed necessary by the Elders.

Article 12 – Dissolution

Upon dissolution, the assets of Northshore Christian Church shall be dispersed to other charitable organizations as selected by the Elders.

Article 13 – Amendments

This Constitution & Bylaws may be amended by the Eldership by unanimous vote.