

Constitution of Fox River Christian Church

Waukesha, Wisconsin

Preamble

We, the members of Fox River Christian Church, adopt the following Constitution as an orderly guide for the application of biblical principles in regard to church polity. We understand that this document does not replace the Bible as our final authority.

Article I: Name and Association

The name of this church shall be "Fox River Christian Church of Waukesha, Wisconsin." Fox River Christian Church is an independent, autonomous, non-denominational Church that is not controlled or governed by any outside agency, association, or denomination.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of this non-profit organization is to honor God by helping people to know and follow Jesus. This purpose is fulfilled through religious, charitable, and educational pursuits; such as public and private worship, prayer, fellowship, preaching and teaching the Word of God, biblical counseling, youth and leadership training, engaging in evangelism, administering the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, meeting community needs, supporting missionary works, and other such endeavors.

Article III: Declaration of Faith

Section One: The Bible

We believe the Bible, comprised of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments is God's Word – His written revelation to man. The Bible is inspired, without error, and the final authority on matters of belief and behavior. (II Tim. 3:16; II Pet. 1:19-21)

Section Two: God

We believe in one eternal, personal, living God who exists in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe in God the Father who is the originator of creation and directed redemption. We believe in Jesus, God the Son, who came into this world through a virgin birth, lived a sinless life, died a substitutionary death on the cross, rose from the dead, and is coming again. We believe in the Holy Spirit who is not merely a "force" or "influence," but fully God and active in the salvation and sanctification of man. (Gen. 1:1,26; Matt. 28:19; I Cor. 8:6; Eph. 1:3-7; Jn. 1:1-3; Matt. 1:20-23; I Cor. 15:3-4,20-23; II Cor. 5:21; Rom. 8:11,14,16,26; Acts 5:3,4; Eph. 1:13,14)

Section Three: Salvation

We believe that man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is therefore in need of reconciliation with God. Man is totally incapable of reconciliation with God on his own and therefore needs to trust in the shed blood of Jesus Christ as the sole basis for forgiveness of sins. Salvation is a free gift received by faith, and is not based on good works. (Gen. 1:26-27; 3:6-7; Jn. 3:16-18; Rom. 3:10-12; 3:23; Eph. 2:8-9)

Section Four: Sanctification

We believe that every believer should continue to follow Jesus and become more like Him in every area of their lives, including marriage and sex. We believe that sex is a gift of God that was intended for a healthy marriage relationship. Scriptural marriage is the joining of one naturally-born man and one naturally-born woman. Therefore, all sexual activities outside of this Scriptural marriage relationship are sinful expressions of God's gift of sex. ((Eph. 4:22-24; 5:1-11; Phil. 2:3-8; Gen. 2:24-25; Eph. 5:22-33; Rom. 1:26-29; I Cor. 5:1; 6:9; I Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4)

Article IV: Membership

Section 1: Qualifications for Membership

Members must receive Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, be baptized with Believer's Baptism, understand and accept the Constitution of this church.

Section 2: Admission and Duties of Members

Prospective members that have fulfilled the membership requirements are approved by the Elder Council. Members are expected to abide by the Church Constitution.

Section 3: Removal from Membership

- (A) Members who have become inactive or have moved out of the immediate area may automatically be removed from the membership without notice.
- (B) Members may be removed from the membership for disciplinary reasons in accordance with Matthew 18:15-18 and Galatians 6:1. The Elder Council shall oversee disciplinary procedures.
- (C) Members may ask to be removed from the membership by stating that desire in writing to the Elder Council.

Article V: Leadership

Section 1. Elder Council

- (A) The governing body of this church shall be the Elder Council comprised of all the Elders qualified and appointed to this purpose.
- (B) The Elder Council shall function as a plurality of equals whereby each member has equal authority. The Lead Pastor functions as the "Spiritual Leader of Leaders."
- (C) A Chairman and Vice Chairman shall be elected from and by the Council. The Lead Pastor is not allowed to serve as Chairman or Vice Chairman.
- (D) Quorum for official meetings of the Elder Council is fifty-one percent (51%).
- (E) Although consensus is preferred on all decisions, it is not necessary. The Elder Council may act upon a majority vote.

Section 2. Elders

- (A) Qualifications. An Elder must be at least 21 years old, an active member of the church for at least one year, and have a life that is above reproach according to the qualifications given in I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and I Peter 5:1-4.
- (B) Appointment. The Elder Council will identify prospective Elders, train them, and examine their qualifications. Prospective Elders may be added to the council only after careful examination, prayer, and approval of the Elder Council.
- (C) Number and term of office. The Elders shall determine the optimum size of the council. Elders shall serve three year terms and may be reinstated for additional terms after one year sabbatical between terms. An Elder may resign in writing at any time.
- (D) Dismissal. The Elder Council may remove an Elder with a majority vote of the other Elders.

(E) Duties. The Elders, as Overseers of the church, provide spiritual and practical oversight including, but not limited to the following:

1. Serving as trustees of the church.
2. Overseeing all aspects of the church, including membership, finances, facilities, etc.
3. Serving as the pastoral search committee in the event that the church is without a Lead Pastor.
4. The Elders, through the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, will annually conduct a performance review with the Lead Pastor.

Section 3. Lead Pastor

(A) Qualifications: The Lead Pastor must be at least 21 years old, and have a life that is above reproach according to the qualifications for Elders given in I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and I Peter 5:1-4.

(B) Appointment.

1. The Elder Council is responsible for examining a prospective Lead Pastor as to their call, qualifications, doctrine, and philosophy of ministry. Upon approval they may recommend a candidate to the church for further consideration.
2. The Elder Council is responsible for overseeing the church examination process and will moderate all proceedings. Church members are invited to share privately with the Elder Council any potential disqualifications they may be aware of concerning the prospective Lead Pastor.
3. A candidate may be recommended for appointment at a meeting of the church providing there has been at least two weeks of prayerful consideration following the church examination. Public notice of such action must be given at least two weeks preceding the date of the meeting, and sixty-six percent (66%) of the ballots cast shall be necessary to recommend appointment.
4. When a candidate has received both church affirmation and approval of the Elder Council, they will be extended an invitation to become the Lead Pastor.
5. In the event that the new Lead Pastor has not been previously ordained by a church of like faith and practice, they should be ordained by the church prior to assuming the full duties as Lead Pastor. The process would be the same as outlined for other ordination candidates.

(C) Term of office. The term of office for the Lead Pastor shall be for an indefinite period of time. The Lead Pastor may resign in writing at any time. If the Lead Pastor resigns they must give at least a sixty day notice unless a different amount of time has been mutually agreed upon with the Elder Council.

(D) Dismissal. The Elder Council may remove the Lead Pastor with a sixty-six percent (66%) majority vote of the other Elders. If dismissed, the Lead Pastor must immediately step down from their office.

- (E) Duties. The Lead Pastor is the chief administrator of the church and an ex-officio member of all church boards and committees.

Section 4. Deacons

- (A) Qualifications. A Deacon must be at least 21 years old, an active member of the church for at least one year, and have a life that is above reproach according to the qualifications given in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.
- (B) Appointment. The Elder Council shall examine the qualifications of prospective Deacons and upon a majority vote appoint them to their office.
- (C) Number and term of office. The number of deacons shall be determined by the Elder Council. Deacons shall serve one year terms that are subject to yearly renewal. A Deacon may resign in writing at any time.
- (D) Duties. The Deacons function as servants of the church and assist the Elders in such a way as to allow the Elders to become more effective in their God-given role. Their specific duties and areas of responsibility shall be determined and overseen by the Elder Council.
- (E) Dismissal. A deacon may be dismissed by a majority vote of the Elder Council.

Section 5. Licensing and Ordination

- (A) Examination. All prospective licensing and ordination candidates must be examined by the Elder Council concerning their call, qualifications, and doctrine.
- (B) Affirmation. A candidate may be licensed or ordained upon a majority vote of the Elder Council.
- (C) Revocation. The church may revoke the license or ordination should the individual become disqualified. This action would require a majority vote of the Elder Council.

Article VI: Business Meetings

Section 1. Conduct and Procedures

- (A) Business meetings shall be called by the Elder Council to transact business as needed.
- (B) Official notice of a scheduled meeting must be given at least two weeks in advance unless otherwise stated in this constitution.
- (C) The Chairman of the Elders shall serve as moderator of all church business meetings. The Chairman may delegate this responsibility to another Elder when they are unavailable or consider it in the best interest of the church.
- (D) Only members 18 years or older are allowed to vote.
- (E) Meeting order requires wisdom, fairness, and proper Christian speech and conduct at all times. All proposals must be seconded and discussed before voting and the moderator reserves the right to table a matter for up to one month.
- (F) All votes require a majority vote of the members present unless otherwise stated in this constitution.

(G) Any recommendation or suggestion considered of special interest to the church shall be brought to the Elder Council for consideration before being presented to the membership.

(H) Meetings may be called by a written petition signed by fifty percent (50%) of the voting members. The Elder Council shall set a date for the meeting within 45 days of receiving the petition and an official notice of the meeting must be given at least two weeks in advance.

Section 2. Quorum

(A) Quorum for business meetings is thirty-three percent (33%) of the voting membership unless otherwise stated in this constitution.

(B) A quorum of the voting membership is necessary for appointing the Lead Pastor or changing the constitution.

Article VII: Finances and Church Property

Section 1. Finances

(A) The Elder Council is responsible for the financial oversight of the church and shall provide an annual financial report to the church.

(B) This church endorses the biblical practice of tithing and encourages its members to give generously and sacrificially. Gift designations are considered advisory only.

Section 2. Church Property

The Elder Council is responsible for oversight of all church properties and may buy, sell, or mortgage property, up to 50% of the annual budget each year.

Article VIII: Dissolution of Corporation

The decision to dissolve this corporation known as Fox River Christian Church of Waukesha, Wisconsin, shall be made by a fifty-one percent (51%) majority vote of the members present and voting at a special meeting called for this purpose. Public notice of such action shall be given at least two weeks immediately preceding the date of the meeting.

Article IX: Amendments

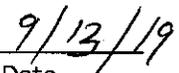
Amending the constitution requires preliminary approval by the Elder Council and a sixty-six percent (66%) majority vote of the members present and voting at a meeting called for this purpose. Proposed changes must be presented in detail to the entire church at least four weeks before a vote can be taken.

Article X: Adoption

This Constitution was adopted on September 1, 2019. All previous Constitutions for Fox River Christian Church are hereby made null and void.



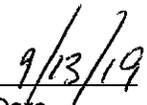
Guy Conn, Senior Pastor
President



Date



Mark Roberts, Executive Pastor
Vice President



Date