

## COMPARISON OF EASTPOINTE BYLAWS OF 01/27/2019 TO NEW PROPOSED BYLAWS

All prior Bylaws were modeled on a secular corporation governance model; proposed changes are to move to a Biblical corporate governance model while still complying with all of the laws of the state of Ohio for non-profit corporate organizations

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Prior ARTICLE 2 dealt with membership, voting and finances; New rewords membership for easier understanding, rewords voting to only apply to situations when the Ohio law require "voting"; under New any non-legal matters brought to congregation will be asked to "affirm" (Voting is a secular political concept, not a Biblical one).

Prior ARTICLE 3 and ARTICLE 4 dealt with Officers, Elders, Congregational meeting; New stream lines by simply referencing scripture regarding Elders qualifications, duties, terms and selection of Elders; old terms were 4 years with one off sabbatical, New Article 3 states Elders serve till resign or removed (removal requires  $\frac{3}{4}$  Elders concurrence), Eldership presents new Elder candidates to congregational for affirmation. New Article 4 is congregational meetings.

Prior ARTICLE 5 dealt the Senior Minister's call, term, recommendation from Elders, Senior Minister as an Elder, duties, termination by Elders; New changes title to Lead Pastor, requires affiliations with restoration movement brotherhood (Christian Churches/Churches of Christ), makes clear that in termination situation, for legal, confidentiality, and privacy concerns the Elders determine if it is proper to release reasons to congregation, all else the same.

Prior ARTICLE 6 was Amendment of Bylaws, New notes that Eastpointe Christian Preschool is a ministry and its administration is a paid staff pastor.

New Article 7 says if dissolution of Eastpointe, remaining assets go to a nonprofit corporation.

New Article 8 is Amendment to Bylaws.

## THE BYLAWS OF EASTPOINTE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The name of this congregation shall be Eastpointe Christian Church, incorporated under the laws of the State of Ohio. Eastpointe Christian Preschool is a ministry of Eastpointe Christian Church.

### ARTICLE 1 – MISSION AND FOUNDATIONAL BELIEFS

1. **MISSION** - *We exist to point people to life. (John 3:16, John 10:10, John 14:6)*  
*Strategy: Gather in worship. Grow in community. Give generously. Go and serve. (Acts 2:42-47)*
2. **FOUNDATIONAL BELIEFS**
  - A. *We believe in one God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*  
*Genesis 1:1 | Matthew 3:16-17 | John 1:1 | John 14:16-20 | Ephesians 4:4-6*
  - B. *We believe God is the creator of mankind and of all things, visible and invisible*  
*Genesis 1:1 | Acts 17:24-28 | Colossians 1:15-17*
  - C. *We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son and Savior of the world.*  
*Matthew 1:18 | John 3:16 | John 20:24-31*
  - D. *We believe the Holy Spirit dwells within every Christian.*  
*John 14:16-20 | John 16:5-15*
  - E. *We believe the Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God and the final authority for all matters of faith.*  
*2 Timothy 3:16 | Hebrews 4:13*
  - F. *We believe that mankind, created by God, willfully sinned, and as a result, is lost and without hope apart from Jesus Christ.*  
*Acts 4:12 | Romans 3:23 | 1 John 1:7*
  - G. *We believe that death seals the eternal destiny of each person. The saved will inherit eternal life; the unsaved eternal separation from God.*  
*Daniel 12:2 | John 6:47 | Romans 8:10-11*
  - H. *We believe that salvation comes by grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9). The Bible teaches that we receive grace by:*
    - placing **faith** in Christ as God's Son (*Romans 5:1-2 | Hebrews 11:6*)
    - **repenting** of sin (*Luke 24:45-47 | Acts 3:19*)
    - **confessing** Jesus as Lord (*Romans 10:9-10*)
    - being **immersed** into Christ (*Acts 2:38 | Colossians 2:12*)*We believe that one retains God's grace by standing firm to the end.*  
*Matthew 10:22 | 1 Corinthians 15:1-2 | Colossians 1:23*
  - I. *We believe that the church is the body and bride of Christ, founded on the day of Pentecost, consisting of all Christians everywhere.*  
*1 Corinthians 12:27 | Colossians 1:18, 24*
  - J. *We believe marriage is ordained by God as the union of one man and one woman.*  
*Genesis 2:21-24 | Matthew 19:4-6*
  - K. *We believe it is God's plan for elders to lead the local church.*  
*Acts 20:28 | 1 Peter 5:1-4*
  - L. *We believe in participating in the Lord's Supper on a weekly basis.*  
*Acts 20:7 | 1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

## **ARTICLE 2 - MEMBERSHIP, VOTING, FINANCES**

1. **MEMBERSHIP** – The membership of this congregation shall be made up of those who are currently identified as members and of those who join by immersion or by the transfer of membership of immersed believers. A membership roll shall be maintained.
2. **VOTING** – Voting privileges shall be extended to any member who is a regular attendee (50% of church services over the past 3 months).
3. **FINANCES** – This congregation shall be financed with tithes, offerings, gifts and any method or program consistent with established policies of the Elders.

## **ARTICLE 3 – OFFICERS, DUTIES**

1. **OFFICERS** – The officers of this congregation shall be the Elders for the purposes of fulfilling legal requirements and executing documents on behalf of the corporation.
  - A. The qualifications for the office of Elder are as found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-10. Other qualifications apply according to the established policies of the Elders.
  - B. The President (Chairman of the Elders), Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected by a majority vote of the Elders at their first meeting after the annual congregational meeting.
  - C. For the purposes of Ohio Revised Code Section 1702.01 (L), the Elders shall be the trustees of the corporation.
2. **DUTIES OF THE ELDERS** – The office of Elder is to be a spiritual overseer and shepherd as commanded in Acts 20:28 and 1 Peter 5:2. Duties may be delegated to ministry leaders (aka: "deacons") and the Senior Minister according to the established policies of the Elders and in accordance with giftedness and calling.
  - A. As spiritual overseers, the Elders have the responsibility to establish policies that promote the growth and welfare of the congregation and its members. This includes, but is not limited to:
    1. performing a ministry of prayer and regular study of the Word;
    2. protecting the Church from false doctrine;
    3. maintaining the financial integrity of the church;
    4. evaluating the candidates for Elder and Senior Minister;
    5. setting the goals and overall vision of the church;
    6. calling congregational meetings as defined herein; and
    7. providing oversight and counsel to the Ministers and ministry leaders.
  - B. As shepherds, the Elders have the responsibility to give spiritual oversight and pastoral guidance to the members of the congregation while at the same time exercising personal holiness and leading by example.

**ARTICLE 4 – ELECTION OF ELDERS, TERM OF OFFICE, NOMINATIONS, AND CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS**

1. **ELECTION** – New and returning Elders shall be installed by a three-fourths majority vote of the congregation utilizing a written ballot election to be held in January of each year and at other times as the Elders deem necessary.
2. **TERM OF OFFICE** – The term of office shall commence February 1 of each year unless an interim election occurs. A three-fourths majority vote by the Elders can remove an Elder from office.
  - A. Except as recited in Paragraph 2.C. of Article 4 below, each Elder shall serve a term of three years, followed by one year out of office. This sequence of three years on and one year off can be repeated as long as the Elder desires, provided he is not removed from office by the Elders as described in Article 4, Paragraph 2. When returning to office, each Elder must go through the selection process again.
  - B. Terms of the Elders shall be staggered so that no more than one-third of the Elders leave office at the same time. The initial staggering of terms shall be handled in a manner decided upon by the Elders.
  - C. First-time Elders shall serve a term of one year. After this initial year, he must go through the selection process again. If reelected, he begins a two year term of office initially followed by one year off. All subsequent terms shall be as described in Article 4, Paragraph 2.A.
3. **NOMINATIONS** – Any member of the congregation may recommend a candidate for Elder by submitting the name(s) to any Elder by the date established by the Elders prior to the election. The names of those candidates who are evaluated according to the established policies of the Elders and approved by a three-fourths majority vote of the Elders shall appear on the ballot. No write-ins or other methods are valid. The Elders may at any time call for a congregational meeting for the purpose of conducting an election.
4. **CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS** – A congregational meeting shall be announced at least two weeks in advance. Included in the announcement shall be the items of business to be discussed and/or submitted to the congregation for voting. No other items of business can be submitted to the congregation for voting other than items announced in advance. The Elders shall have sole authority to call meetings and determine what matters will be on the agenda and brought to the congregation for voting. The annual congregational business meeting of Eastpointe Christian Church shall be held in January each year at a place and time designated by the Elders. A quorum for transaction of business as defined in Ohio Revised Code Section 1702.22 and a majority vote of the members present shall be sufficient to pass any measure, except for the election of Elders as defined in Article 4, Paragraph 1. The chairman of the Elders or his designee shall preside at all congregational meetings.

## **ARTICLE 5 – SENIOR MINISTER**

1. The Senior Minister shall be called by a majority of votes cast in a congregational meeting. The call shall be for an indefinite period. Termination of employment shall not require an action of the Church, said authority residing with the Elders. Though the Senior Minister is an Elder (see Article 5, paragraph 3), he is excluded from participating in actions by the Eldership regarding possible or actual termination of his employment.
2. Recommendation for the Senior Minister shall originate with the Elders. Favorable action by the Elders will refer the candidate to the congregation for election.
3. The Senior Minister shall be an Elder with all of the duties and responsibilities thereof. The requirements for election and term of office as defined in Article 4 shall not apply to the Senior Minister as an Elder.
4. The Senior Minister shall be responsible to fill ministerial and administrative staff positions approved by the Elders. He shall present all ministerial candidates to the Elders for advice prior to offering them employment. The Senior Minister shall also have sole authority to terminate the employment of any ministerial and administrative staff positions after obtaining advice from the Elders and consulting with legal counsel for the Church, if the Elders deem legal counsel appropriate. In the absence of an employed Senior Minister, the Chairman of the Elders shall have the authority to terminate the employment of staff after obtaining advice from the Elders and consulting with legal counsel for the Church, if the Elders deem legal counsel necessary.
5. The Senior Minister shall be responsible to fulfill the duties and responsibilities delegated to him by the Elders. These duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:
  - A. preaching the Word;
  - B. developing strategies and plans to realize the goals as set forth by the Elders;
  - C. ensuring the efficient administration of all employees of the church;
  - D. ensuring the ministries and programs of the church are efficient and effective;
  - E. identifying the needs of our congregation and community and meeting those needs with relevant ministries and programs;
  - F. overseeing the day to day operation and decision-making in the affairs of the Church;
  - G. making decisions regarding the delegation of his responsibilities in a manner that increases efficiency and effectiveness in the life of the Church and its members.

## **ARTICLE 6 – AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS**

1. These bylaws may be amended at any congregational meeting by a majority of the votes cast.

# **BYLAWS AND REGULSTIONS OF EASTPOINTE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

**Edition Date:**

The name of this congregation shall be **Eastpointe Christian Church**, incorporated as a nonprofit corporation in the State of Ohio.

## **ARTICLE 1 – WHY EASTPOINTE CHRISTIAN CHURCH EXISTS**

1. **WHY** – Eastpointe Christian Church exists to love God and love people. Its mission, vision, values, and actions flow from these two commands. (Matthew 22:36-38)

## **ARTICLE 2 - MEMBERSHIP, VOTING, SOURCE OF FINANCES**

1. **MEMBERSHIP** – The membership of this congregation shall be those who have been baptized at Eastpointe Christian Church and those immersed believers who have transferred their membership to Eastpointe. A membership roll shall be maintained.
2. **VOTING/AFFIRMING** – Any member may vote/affirm a proposal who has attended, either in person or online, at least 50% of Sunday morning church services over the 3 months immediately preceding a congregational meeting at which there will be a vote/affirmation taken.
3. **SOURCE OF FINANCES** – This congregation shall be financed with tithes, offerings, gifts and any method or program consistent with established policies of the Elders.

## **ARTICLE 3 – ELDERS**

1. **ELDERS** – The Elders shall be deemed the Directors, Officers, and Trustees for legal purposes and requirements.
2. **QUALIFICATIONS** – Elder spiritual and moral qualifications are as found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-10. Other qualifications may apply according to the established policies of the Elders.
3. **DUTIES OF THE ELDERS** – The duties of Elders are described by Acts 6, Acts 20, and in 1Peter 5:2. Elders are to be the spiritual overseers and shepherds. They have four tasks  
i. prayer and preaching, ii. setting policies and objectives, iii. Insuring sound doctrine, and  
iv. providing pastoral care of the congregation.

4. **INSTALLATION** – New Elders recommended by the existing Eldership to the congregation shall be installed upon receiving a three-fourths majority affirmation from the congregation at a congregational meeting. New Elder recommendations from the existing Eldership shall only occur after there has been a full vetting of person by the Eldership and in accordance with the established policies of the Eldership.

5. **TERM OF OFFICE** – Elders shall serve the congregation until resignation or removal. A three-fourths consensus by the Elders, not including the Elder in question, is required to remove an Elder from office.

#### **ARTICLE 4 – CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS**

1. **GENERAL** - All congregational meetings shall be announced at least two weeks in advance from the pulpit and via email unless the Elders unanimously declare the meeting as an emergency, in which case the advance notice requirement shall be shortened to one week. Announcements of congregational meetings will include the items of business to be considered. No other items can be considered. The Elders shall have sole authority to call meetings and determine what matters will be on the agenda. As permitted by Ohio Revised Code Section 1702.22(A)(1), a quorum for transaction of business shall be the number of members present at the meeting. A majority vote/affirmation of the members present shall be sufficient to pass any measure, except for the affirmation of a new Elder as defined in Article 3. The chairman of the Elders or his designee shall preside at all congregational meetings. The annual congregational business meeting of Eastpointe Christian Church shall be held in January each year at a place and time designated by the Elders.

2. **VOTE REQUIRED:** The Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws and Regulations may only be amended by a vote of the majority of members present at a congregational meeting at which a quorum is present.

3. **PARTICIPATION METHOD** - The Elders may also determine if on-line participation shall be allowed at the meeting. In person meetings shall always be the preferred and default method of meeting unless unusual circumstances exist as determined by the Elders. Every notice of a congregational meeting shall advise whether the meeting will be exclusively in person or whether on-line viewing and participating will be permitted.

#### **ARTICLE 5 – LEAD PASTOR (aka SENIOR MINISTER)**

1. **SELECTION** - Recommendation for the Lead Pastor shall originate with the Eldership. Only candidates who are graduates of Restoration Movement colleges or have a minimum five years of experience in leadership at a Restoration Movement church may be recommended. The Elders will refer their recommended candidate to the congregation for affirmation at a congregational meeting.

2. **CALL** - The Lead Pastor shall be called by a majority affirmation at a congregational meeting. The congregational call for the Lead Pastor shall be for an indefinite period.

3. **TERMINATION** - Termination of employment of the Lead Pastor shall not require an action of the congregation, said authority shall reside exclusively with the Elders. Because of privacy, confidentiality, and legal concerns, the Elders may deem it appropriate to keep the reasons for termination confidential.

4. **LEAD PASTOR ELDERSHIP** - The Lead Pastor shall automatically be an Elder with all of the duties and responsibilities thereof except regarding matters of his own conduct and/or employment.

5. **DUTIES** - The Lead Pastor's duties and responsibilities shall be described in the formal policies adopted by the Eldership.

#### **ARTICLE 6. Eastpointe Christian Preschool**

1. **ADMINISTRATOR** - Eastpointe Christian Preschool is a ministry of Eastpointe Christian Church. As such, the administrator of the preschool shall also be a paid staff pastor as described in the formal policies of the Elders.

#### **ARTICLE 7. Dissolution**

1. In the event of a dissolution of Eastpointe Christian Church, any remaining assets shall be divided among the nonprofit organizations supported monthly by Eastpointe Christian Church. Those remaining assets will be divided in the same percentages as the monthly missionary donations of Eastpointe Christian Church were in the monthly immediately prior to the dissolution. If there were no donations one month prior to dissolution, then all remaining assets shall all be given to Lifeline Christian Mission, an Ohio nonprofit corporation (Ohio Secretary of State Entity number 565382). No remaining assets of Eastpointe Christian Church will be distributed to any individual or for-profit entity.

#### **ARTICLE 8 AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS AND REGULATIONS**

1. These bylaws may be amended by a majority of the votes cast by members at a congregational meeting called with Bylaws and Regulations amendment on the agenda.

EDITION DATE:



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