

The Bylaws of Old Town Church

ARTICLE I: Name

The name of the organization, an Oregon nonprofit religious corporation, is Old Town Forest Grove, dba Old Town Church, hereinafter “the Church,” “Old Town” or “Old Town Church.”

ARTICLE II: Purpose

In keeping with the command of Jesus Christ in Matthew 28:18-20, the purpose of Old Town Church is to “make disciples.” We lead people in a growing relationship with Jesus Christ by connecting them to God, growing them in their faith, equipping them to serve others, and leading them to make more disciples.

The Church also seeks to benefit the people of the local community by providing opportunities for spiritual, physical, intellectual, and social development.

ARTICLE III: Statement of Faith

We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1:26-27; Matthew 28:19)

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory. (John 1:1-5; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful people, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential. (John 14:16-17; Acts 1:8)

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life. (Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25)

We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Ephesians 4:3)

ARTICLE IV: Affiliation

The Church is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs, independent of any denominational control.

ARTICLE V: Membership

Section A: Qualifications for Membership in the Church

Membership in the Church shall consist of all persons who have met the following qualifications and been placed on the roles of membership:

1. A personal commitment of faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.
2. Completion of the church's membership process.

Section B: Removal from Membership in the Church

Members may be removed from membership in the church for the following reasons:

1. Neglecting regular attendance, duties and obligations for a period of one year.
2. At the member's request.
3. Dismissal by the Pastors when the member's life and conduct is not in accordance with the membership covenant in such a way that the member hinders the ministry and community of the church. Dismissal of a member shall be done according to the spirit of Matthew 18:15-17. Restoration and reinstatement of membership shall be accomplished according to the spirit of 2 Corinthians 2:7-8.
4. Physical death.

ARTICLE VI: Officers and Business of the Church

Pastors and Trustees shall administer the business of the Church. Pastors shall provide spiritual leadership and teaching. Trustees shall oversee the management of the finances, business and legal affairs of the Church.

Section A: Pastors

Pastors shall lead and guide the Church members and other people constituting the body of the Church.

A Lead Pastor shall be elected and dismissed by vote of the members as set forth below in Section VII following nomination by the Trustees. The Lead Pastor shall consult with the Trustees in the operation of the Church.

The Lead Pastor shall appoint and hire such other pastoral staff, both lay and professional, prudent for the Church's work with the advice of the Trustees. All pastors must meet the requirements and qualifications of 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:6-9.

Section B: Trustees

Trustees shall oversee the stewardship and management of the Church's resources. The Trustees shall function as the official governing body of the Church. The Trustees shall meet at least once each year to carry out the business of the Church. Attendance at a meeting of the Trustees of 3/4ths of the then current number of Trustees shall constitute a quorum sufficient to conduct business. A majority vote of the Trustees present at a meeting of the Trustees shall decide any issue before the Trustees. The Lead Pastor shall serve as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, preside over the meetings of the Trustees and cast a deciding vote in event of a tie vote of the Trustees.

There shall be at least three and no more than five trustees serving at one time.

Trustees shall be members nominated for election by the Lead Pastor and shall be elected and dismissed by vote of the membership as set forth in Section VII. A trustee shall serve a term of three years. A trustee may serve three terms connectively.

The Board of Trustees shall approve the annual budget of the church, the acquisition of real property, indebtedness and other business issues pertinent to the operation of the Church and its business. The Board of Trustees shall advise the pastors of the Church in the conduct of their duties to the Church.

The Board of Trustees shall nominate a Lead Pastor to the membership of the Church for the calling or dismissal by vote of the membership pursuant to Article VII, below.

ARTICLE VII: Business Meetings

Section A: Voting by Members

Every member of the Church, 18 years or older, shall have the right and responsibility to a single (non-proxy) vote at any business meeting called in one of the manners set forth below. At any such meeting, 3/4ths (75%) of all valid votes casts on questions duly noticed shall constitute approval of any such issue. All voting at a membership meeting shall be by secret ballot.

Pastors or Trustees may call special meetings of the membership of the Church for one or more of the reasons set forth in Section C, below.

Section B: Notice of Meetings and Votes

The Church shall provide no less than two weeks notice of any meeting of the membership called for any reason in Section A, above. Notice to members of any item requiring a vote of membership shall be by posting notice at the Church's facilities, e-mail, bulletins, US Mail or other means reasonably calculated to convey notice to members.

Section C: Voting Responsibilities of Members:

1. The calling or dismissal of the Lead Pastor;

2. The appointment or dismissal of Trustees;
3. The merger or dissolution of the Church; and,
4. Amendments to these Bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII: Conflict of Interest

All employees, staff, pastors and the Board of Trustees shall abide by ORS 65.361 et seq.

ARTICLE IX: Indemnification

The Church shall indemnify and hold harmless the Trustees from and against any and all liability or fees to the extent allowed by ORS 65.387 et seq., as enacted or later amended.

ARTICLE X: Records and Reports

The Church shall maintain the following records and reports:

1. Adequate and correct books and records of all financial accounts.
2. Written minutes of the proceedings of Trustees meetings.
3. A record (“role”) of the members of the Church.
4. Contribution statements for contributors.

All such records shall be kept at the Church’s principal location.

ARTICLE XI: Dissolution of the Corporation

In the event of the dissolution of the Corporation, property of the Church shall be distributed as follows: All property owned by the Church shall remain dedicated and transferred to the benefit of purposes outlined in these Bylaws. The liquidation, dissolution or abandonment of the Church shall not benefit any private person.

ARTICLE XII: Amendments to the Bylaws

These Bylaws may be amended and new Bylaws may be adopted by vote of three-fourths (75%) of the members present at any meeting of the membership called for such purpose.