

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

of the

RIVER VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH, INC.

PROSPECT, KENTUCKY

PREAMBLE

The purpose of this constitution is: To serve as a document to be used by the River Valley Christian Church, Inc., to set forth a mutually adopted procedure of management. To make known that the congregation is patterned after the church revealed in the New Testament, and that it is understood that on all matters of “faith” we will abide by the direct commands and approved precedents of the Bible. The Articles to follow are to be applied in matters of expediency in order that the work of the church may be executed “decently and in order” (I Corinthians 14:40).

We the members of the River Valley Christian Church, Inc., a congregation governed as prescribed in the New Testament of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, having met in a duly called session this 30th day of November in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred ninety seven, in order to promote the work of Christ in the spirit of Christ, do hereby adopt the following by-laws.

ARTICLE I

NAME

SECTION I. The name of the church shall be the River Valley Christian Church Inc. coinciding with the Corporation name which is registered with the state of Kentucky to meet its legal demands, but which in no way interferes with the spiritual organization of the local church as given in the New Testament.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

SECTION 1. In addition to the purpose set forth in the Articles of Incorporation, the

purpose of the church shall be to carry out the program of Christ as expressed in the New Testament, i.e. the winning of souls to Christ and the edification of the saints.

ARTICLE III

AFFILIATION

SECTION 1. This congregation shall continue as a local, self-governing religious body, and shall not be made or become subject to any ecclesiastical authority, jurisdiction, or directions by any person, missionary society, organizations (local, state, or national) or any outside board whatsoever.

SECTION 2. Those who receive support from the congregation are to be determined by the elders of the congregation.

SECTION 3. No minister, missionary, or other workers shall be called to serve this congregation, in either the local church program or otherwise, who is not in full accord with Sections 1 and 2 of this Article III.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Membership to or in the River Valley Christian Church shall be obtained only by immersed believers who hold no creed nor articles of faith other than those contained in the New Testament and are willing to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS

SECTION 1. Officers in the church shall consist of elders, and may also include (as deemed necessary by the elders) deacons, trustees and the Senior Minister. There shall be a plurality of men serving in the offices of elder, the specific number of which shall be determined by the need of the congregation and the number of qualified men available.

SECTION 2. With the exception of the Senior Minister, all officers of the congregation must have been members of the church for a reasonable time prior to election, and must believe without mental reservation in the full and final inspiration of the Bible to the extent that it is to them the final rule of faith and practice.

ARTICLE VI

LEADERSHIP

SECTION 1. The elders are to be the spiritual “overseers” of the congregation and shall be the governing body of the church, composed of such men as are qualified to meet the scriptural requirements of such offices (See: 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9).

SECTION 2. The deacons, if chosen, would be the “servants” of the congregation and would act as helpers of the elders in carrying on the work of the church.

SECTION 3. The eldership may consist of a Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary. These officers are to be elected annually at the elders meeting in December. The Chairman of the elders shall be an ex-officio member of all boards, departments, and committees.

SECTION 4. The elders will meet as often as necessary to review the spiritual condition of the church and take action on any matters needing their attention.

SECTION 5. Any elder(s) may be removed for cause at any time by the affirmative vote of a majority of the elders. The vote shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, and the vacancies thus created may be filled, at the meeting held for the purpose of removal, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the elders, subject to confirmation of the congregation at a special called meeting held for that purpose.

SECTION 6. Candidates for elder and deacon shall be elected in November of each year as herein provided. Elders will serve for a period of 3 years with re-election possible. Deacons will serve for a period of 2 years with re-election possible.

ARTICLE VII

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1. Regular elections: The annual election of new officers shall be by written ballot by the congregation on a Sunday in November, to be determined by the eldership.

SECTION 2. The elders recommendation for all officers to be voted on shall be announced to the congregation at least one (1) week prior to the election.

SECTION 3. The election of officers as defined in Article V, Section 1., shall be non-competitive by secret ballot, with each man needing approval on 75% of the ballots but subject to final approval of the elders.

SECTION 4. Special elections: It shall be the responsibility of the elders to consider and interview prospects to fill any vacancy. Nominations shall be announced to the congregation at least one (1) week prior to the special election.

SECTION 5. The elders shall interview and recommend names for any additional officers if the need arises. All officers elected at special elections are to take office immediately following the election and serve the remainder of the Church year or the term of the office filled.

SECTION 6. To be eligible to vote in any election a person must be a member of River Valley Christian Church and at least 16 years of age.

ARTICLE VIII

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SECTION 1. The Board of Trustees shall be three in number, qualified to act as trustees for and on behalf of River Valley Christian Church, Inc. a non profit corporation. As trustees they shall have no other duty than to carry out the legal will of the congregation within the framework of the separate corporation as is required by state law.

SECTION 2. Trustees shall be elected at the annual meeting for an indefinite term, until such time as a replacement is elected.

SECTION 3. No papers of any character may be signed on behalf of the church until action has first been authorized by the eldership. Any mortgage on, or conveyance of real estate owned by the church, or real property to be acquired by the church must be authorized at a meeting of the congregation. Acquisition of real estate shall be by a

majority vote of those members present at a valid meeting of the congregation.

SECTION 4. Those authorized to sign legal documents on behalf of the church shall be any two of three trustees.

ARTICLE IX

MINISTER

SECTION 1. The Senior Minister shall be called by a 75% majority vote of the members of the congregation present and voting, to serve for an indefinite period. This relationship may be terminated at any time, either by the minister or the eldership on behalf of the congregation.

SECTION 2. Employment of the Senior Minister shall be under the supervision of the eldership, who after approval shall refer to the congregation for election. In order to terminate the Senior Minister's employment 75% of the elder board must vote to dismiss.

SECTION 3. Contractual relationships between the Senior Minister and the congregation including salary, vacation, conventions, etc., shall be arranged and approved by the eldership.

SECTION 4. The Senior Minister shall be an ex-officio member of all boards, departments, and committees.. Salaried and volunteer members of the church staff are not eligible to serve in the capacity of elder or deacon.

ARTICLE X

STAFF MEMBERS

SECTION 1. Contractual relationship, including salary, tenure, vacation, etc., between all staff members, other than the Senior Minister, i.e., secretary, choir director, custodian, minister's assistants, etc., shall be arranged by the Senior Minister, subject to the approval of the Eldership.

ARTICLE XI

MEETINGS

SECTION 1. An annual Business Meeting of the congregation shall be held, the exact date to be determined by the Chairman of the Elders.

SECTION 2. Special meetings of the congregation may be called by the Chairman of the Elders, provided one (1) week advance notice of the purpose of the meeting is made from the pulpit.

ARTICLE XII

QUORUMS

SECTION 1. Quorums shall consist, respectively, as follows: A quorum for annual meetings or special meetings of the congregation shall be those members of the congregation who are present; a quorum of the elders shall be 60% of the elders present, a quorum of the trustees shall be a majority. No proxy votes will be honored.

ARTICLE XIII

AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS

SECTION I. All auxiliary organizations (men's, women's, youth, Bible School, etc.) shall be organized under the guidance and supervision of the eldership. No projects shall be promoted and no speakers shall be engaged without the approval of the eldership.

SECTION 2. The work of the church is to be supported by the tithes and sacrificial offerings of its members. The Bible School, ministry teams and other auxiliary organizations, if any, are a part of the church and shall have no separate treasury.

SECTION 3. All teachers and literature of the Bible School and any other of the teaching programs of the church must be approved by the eldership.

SECTION 4. Leaders, teachers, etc. must be members of River Valley Christian Church.

ARTICLE XIV

RULES OF ORDER

SECTION 1. Robert's Rules of Order will regulate the proceedings of all congregational meetings. The outline of the Chairman of the Elders shall govern all meetings of the eldership. Voting by consensus will be encouraged at all meetings of the eldership.

ARTICLE XV

AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. These by-laws may be amended except for Articles II, III, IV, provided that no amendment or addition is in any way contrary to the doctrine of the New Testament.

SECTION 2. It shall require a two-thirds majority vote of these members present at any congregational meeting to change these By-Laws, provided that notice of such proposed change shall have been made from the pulpit, and the church bulletin, at least one (1) month in advance.

ARTICLE XVI

CONCEPTS

SECTION 1. The government of the church is not seen as a democracy. Each man votes as he sees God's will not as his own would dictate or not as other members would encourage him.

SECTION 2. The church is no stronger than its leadership. An absolute need of the eldership is that they be spiritual men.

SECTION 3. A goal of unanimous consensus for decisions is the goal of the elders. Voting will be kept to a minimum and discussion is encouraged until there is a consensus.

SECTION 4. Unity and oneness is a priority goal for the leadership of the congregation and the congregation itself.

SECTION 5. Communication is encouraged in every way.

SECTION 6. Attempts will be made to use people according to their abilities.

NOTICE TO THE RECORDER

The foregoing is an accurate copy of the amended by-laws as approved by a vote of the River Valley Christian Church , Inc. on November 21, 2010.

signed: _____
Chairman of the Elders Date

signed: _____
Secretary of the Elders Date