

**PLEASANT UNION CHRISTIAN CHURCH
BYLAWS**

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be Pleasant Union Christian Church.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of Pleasant Union Christian Church shall be:

- To exalt and glorify God through worship, prayer, and service.
- To preach and teach God's infallible Word.
- To seek the salvation of lost souls and to extend this same ministry throughout the world by the prayerful support of missionary efforts.
- To promote the spiritual growth of believers and loving fellowship among believers.
- To administer the ordinances of the New Testament.

ARTICLE III - GOVERNMENT

A. This church shall acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ as its only Head and shall remain independent of any denominational ties.

B. The government of this church shall be congregational in nature and the final authority vested in its members and whose vote shall be final in all matters pertaining to the church. The Board of Deacons shall administer the day-to-day operations of the church.

C. This church shall operate on a fiscal year of January 1 to December 31 and a church calendar year of June 1 to May 31. All church organizations and committees shall observe the church calendar year unless otherwise authorized. The terms of service for Teachers, Officers, and Committees shall begin on uneven years (ex. 2001) and for the Sunday School Superintendent and Deacons it shall begin on even years (ex. 2000).

D. Regular Business Meetings. Quarterly business meetings of the members shall be held each January, April, July and October with the date and time to be established by the Board of Deacons.

E. Special Business Meetings. Other business meetings of the members shall be held as called by the Board of Deacons and announced from the pulpit at least two (2) weeks in advance.

F. Meetings of Deacons. Meetings of the Board of Deacons shall be held as determined by that body.

G. Voting. All members eighteen (18) years of age and over shall be entitled to vote at business meetings of the members.

H. Quorum. For business meetings of the members, at least thirty (30) members or five (5%) per cent, whichever is greater, of eligible voting members shall be a quorum required to be present for the meeting.

I. Elections. All elections shall be by secret ballot.

J. Rules of Order. Unless changed by these bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order (as revised) shall govern procedure for all business meetings.

K. Minutes. The Church Secretary shall keep minutes and the action taken.

ARTICLE IV - STATEMENT OF FAITH

A. Verbal Inspiration - We believe that the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments, is the verbally inspired, inerrant word of God. As such it is the only infallible rule of faith and practice (II Tim. 3:16; II Pet. 1:19-21; Ps. 119:105).

B. The Trinity - We believe that there is only one living and true God but that there are three eternal, co-equal, divine persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Lk. 3:21-22; I Pet. 1:2; II Cor. 13:14).

C. Salvation - We believe that man is born in sin and utterly unable to save himself, but that God in mercy sent His Son to redeem mankind. This he accomplished by the shedding of His blood on the cross and the resurrection of His body from the tomb. God therefore offers to every man the free gift of salvation from sin, and any man who will turn from his sin and trust completely in Jesus as his Savior will be saved (Rom. 3:23; Jn. 3:16; Eph. 2:8-9; Acts 4:12; Acts 16:31).

D. Virgin Birth - We believe that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of the virgin Mary. Therefore He was born without sin and was perfectly qualified to be the Savior of the world (Isa. 7:14; Lk. 1:35).

E. Resurrection - We believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead bodily, ascended into heaven, and now is seated at the right-hand of God the Father as the only Mediator between God and man (I Cor. 15:20; Acts 2:32-33; I Tim. 2:5).

F. Return of the Lord - We believe that Jesus Christ will come again and that His coming will be a literal, bodily, personal and imminent return: the Christian's "Blessed Hope" (I Thess. 4:13-18; Acts 1:11; Jn. 14:1-3).

G. Heaven and Hell - We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment.

Furthermore, we believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord. (Mt. 25:46; Jn. 5:28-29; II Cor. 5:8).

H. Creation - We believe that God created the heaven and the earth and all that is in them from nothing in six days. (Gen. 1; Col. 1:16-17; Neh. 9:6).

I. Satan - We believe that Satan is a personal being, the author of the Fall, and that he will be eternally punished (Jn. 8:44; Rev, 20:10).

J. Sanctification - We believe that every man truly born again by the Spirit of God should desire to follow after holiness of heart and of life. It is therefore our duty to try to be conformed to the image of Christ, not following worldly practices, but walking in newness of life (I Pet. 1:15-16; Col. 2:6-7).

K. Assurance - We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ. (Jn. 6:37-40; Jn. 10:27-30; I Pet. 1:3-5). Furthermore, it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word which, however, forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion for the flesh and warns believers to avoid unbelief and sinful living (Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15; Heb. 3:12-13).

L. Church Ordinance – We as a church celebrate the two New Testament ordinances: baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that neither of these ordinances hold in themselves or in their practice any efficacious grace or merit. They are, however, important in that they serve as symbols to remind us of the giving of Christ's blood and body on the cross in the Lord's Supper, and the identification of the believer with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection in baptism. The Lord's Supper is open to all who profess to be born again believers. Baptism by immersion is practiced following one's public profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior (Acts 2:41-42; Matthew 28:19-20; Mk. 3:13-17; Romans 6:1-11; 1 Cor. 11:24-29; Lk. 22:14-20).

M. Marriage – We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and woman. We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God. We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons applying for membership in the church, employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers in the name of the church, should abide by the statements set forth hereinabove and agree, in principle, to the truth of the statements on marriage and sexuality set forth herein and should, at all times, conduct themselves in a manner in accordance with this statement of

belief (Ge. 2:24-25; Ep. 5:22-33; Matthew 19:4-6; 1 Co. 7:1-16; He. 13:4-7; Mk. 10:6-9; Le. 18:22; Ro. 1:26-28; Le. 20:13-15; 1 Timothy 1:9-11).

N. Church Membership – We believe that God desires for all Christians to be actively involved in a local church body (Heb. 10:24-25). (See ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP)

(Note: Above references taken from the King James Version of the Bible)

ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP

A. Membership in this church shall be open to all Christians who present themselves to the church desiring to unite with this church in its faith, purposes, and covenant.

B. All candidates for membership must have publicly confessed Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and given evidence of rebirth.

C. Request for membership

Candidates for membership shall express their desire to unite with this church by presenting themselves at the time of invitation during a worship service, or by making their request known to the Pastor or a deacon.

As soon as practical after the candidate makes his desire known, the Pastor and/or one (or more) deacon (s) shall visit the candidate to discuss his Christian experience and to acquaint him with the Church and its faith, ministries, purpose and covenant.

The Pastor shall normally present the candidate to the Church at a regular worship service, with his recommendation, for a vote of affirmation and welcome by the membership of the Church.

D. Affirmation of membership

Candidates who come to the Church by profession of faith shall normally be affirmed and welcomed into the fellowship of the Church, pending baptism.

All rights and privileges of membership shall be enjoyed from the time the person is presented by the pastor to the church members and received into the church, pending baptism, by a vote of affirmation. Membership with all rights and privileges shall automatically be revoked if and when a person fails by his own action to submit to the ordinance of baptism.

Candidates coming from another church, having been previously baptized in that church, shall be welcomed into the fellowship of the Church on the basis of that prior baptism. (The mode of baptism is not the basis for membership in this church.)

E. Church discipline

All matters of discipline shall be conducted in accordance with the spirit and instructions of Scripture. Such discipline shall be entrusted to the Pastor and Board of Deacons who shall take each case into prayerful consideration, act promptly, and, if appropriate, bring the matter before the church. Any disciplinary action taken by the church must be conducted at an official business meeting.

ARTICLE VI - COVENANT

THE MEANING OF MEMBERSHIP IN PLEASANT UNION CHRISTIAN CHURCH

In this day of apostasy, worldliness and indifference, we do not hesitate to say that Pleasant Union Church is different from many other churches. As a fellowship of believers we resolve to remain separate from all forms of ungodliness, whether it be the ecclesiastical entanglements of ecumenical associations or the personal practices of unholy living. The Lord Jesus deserves the very best from each member of our church.

While maintaining an aggressive stand against the modern apostasy, we also want to avoid the hypocrisy of Pharisaical pride. We just want to love the Lord and be faithful to him in every way.

We believe that any affection, association, practice or habit which hinders spiritual growth and an ever increasing likeness to the Lord Jesus should be permanently laid aside.

When one becomes a member of this church, he enters into a fellowship that asks each of its members to do his best in maintaining its peculiar and significant testimony against apostasy, worldliness and indifference. We also ask each member to consider his place in our church's great task of preaching the gospel to every lost soul.

Membership in Pleasant Union Christian Church is both a happy privilege and a holy responsibility. Those whose hearts the Lord directs to join with us in this holy endeavor, we welcome into the membership of the church.

ARTICLE VII - ORDINANCES

A. Baptism

Those professing faith in our Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior shall be encouraged to give public testimony through water baptism in accordance with the Scriptural teaching. Although the mode of Baptism is not the basis for membership in the church, the policy of Pleasant Union Christian Church shall be to baptize by immersion in water.

B. The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper shall be served to the assembled church at least once each quarter. All who have accepted Jesus Christ as personal Savior and are living in fellowship with Him shall be welcome to join in this service.

We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death for our sins. The ordinance has no saving power of itself, but is a solemn time for believers to remember Christ's sufferings on our behalf.

ARTICLE VIII - OFFICES IN THE CHURCH

A. Pastor

1. Calling the Pastor

a. When it is necessary to seek a Pastor for the Church, the Board of Deacons shall appoint a Pulpit Committee consisting of at least five members. The Pulpit Committee will seek candidates, invite candidates to the pulpit, interview candidates, and then recommend to the Board of Deacons the candidate it prefers.

b. The candidate for Pastor shall be heard by the church members for at least two (2) services, be recommended by the Pulpit Committee and the Board of Deacons, and be accepted by an eighty (80) percent vote of the eligible members present at an officially called business meeting.

c. To avoid confusion only one candidate for Pastor shall be voted on at one time.

2. Qualifications for the Office of Pastor

a. In consideration of the Biblical requirements set forth in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-11, the Pastor must be a male who has not been divorced. He must have the testimony of a godly life and be able to teach God's Word.

b. Before any candidate for Pastor can be recommended to the Church, he must state to the Pulpit Committee his acceptance of and commitment to the faith, purposes and covenant of this church, as expressed in Articles II, IV and VI.

3. Duties of the Pastor

a. It will be the duty of the Pastor to preach the Word of God, to be in charge of the public worship services, and to administer the ordinances of the Church. He will also perform the usual duties of a minister.

b. The Pastor will be a non-voting member of the Board of Deacons and of every other committee and board.

4. Termination of the Pastor's Services

a. By resignation:

When the Pastor resigns he shall give the Church at least thirty (30) days notice.

b. By dismissal:

1) A meeting to dismiss the Pastor may be called by a petition from twenty-five (25) percent of the eligible voting church members or by a majority vote of the Board of Deacons.

2) A meeting to dismiss the Pastor must be published in the Church bulletin or newsletter in writing and by public announcement at worship services for at least three (3) Sundays prior to that meeting.

3) The vote to dismiss the Pastor will require a majority of the eligible members present.

4) Salary and other benefits will continue for sixty (60) days or until he has obtained a full-time paid position, whichever comes first.

B. Board of Deacons

1. The Board of Deacons shall consist of eight (8) members. The term of service shall be eight (8) years. After serving a full term, a retiring deacon may not be reelected within two (2) years.

2. Two deacons shall retire from the Board biannually according to the length of their service, to be replaced by two new deacons. New deacons shall be selected by the current Board of Deacons and approved by the church members. New deacons take office effective June first each biannual selection. Before the Deacons meet to determine their selections, they will receive input from the church members through a Nomination Box placed in the church for at least three (3) Sundays.

3. If a position on the Board of Deacons becomes vacant, they shall select a suitable deacon to fill the unexpired term. A person serving an unexpired term may not be reelected to the Board at the end of his present term if he has served more than four (4) years.

4. The Deacons shall be males who meet the qualifications for office set forth in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. They shall have been members of this church for at least two years.

5. It shall be the duty of the Deacons to assist the Pastor in promoting the spiritual welfare of the Church, to be his counselors, to exercise prudent watchcare over the Church membership and property, and to administer the day-to-day operations of the Church.

6. The Deacons shall elect their own Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary at their June meeting. These officers will serve for a term of two (2) years and may be reelected to serve consecutive terms without limit.

7. A quorum shall consist of at least six (6) members.

C. Teachers and Officers

To serve as a Sunday School teacher, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Church Secretary, Assistant Church Secretary, Sunday School Superintendent, Sunday School Secretary, or Deacon, one must be a member of our church.

1. Teachers

a. Those who hold teaching positions in this church must support the doctrinal and ecclesiastical positions of the church as expressed in these by-laws. "To support" means that the teacher will neither teach nor encourage anything contrary to the positions of the church.

b. The Board of Deacons shall endorse teachers for the various positions of the church after receiving recommendations from the Nominating Committee.

c. The church members will then vote on the teachers recommended by the Nominating Committee and the Board of Deacons.

d. Teachers shall serve for a term of two (2) years and may be reelected to serve consecutive terms without limit.

2. Church Treasurer

a. The Church Treasurer shall be selected by the Board of Deacons and approved by the church members.

b. The Treasurer shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Deacons.

c. The Treasurer shall be responsible for receiving and disbursing all funds as directed by the church members or the Board of Deacons.

d. The Treasurer shall keep a complete and accurate record of all contributions and disbursements of the Church, and shall submit a report to the Board of Deacons and the church members each quarter.

e. Duties of the Treasurer shall include the accurate and timely submission of financial documents and reports required by the federal and state government.

f. The Treasurer shall serve as Chairman of the Finance Committee.

3. Assistant Church Treasurer

- a. The Assistant Church Treasurer shall be selected by the Board of Deacons and approved by the church members.
- b. The Assistant Treasurer shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Deacons.
- c. The Assistant Treasurer shall serve in the absence of the Treasurer.

4. Church Secretary

- a. The Church Secretary shall be selected by the Board of Deacons and approved by the church members.
- b. The Secretary shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Deacons.
 - i. The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of all the business proceedings of the Church, a record of the membership, and shall perform such duties as prescribed by the Church.
 - ii. Duties of the Secretary shall include the accurate and timely submission of documents and reports required by the federal and state government.

5. Assistant Church Secretary

- a. The Assistant Church Secretary shall be selected by the Board of Deacons and approved by the church members.
- b. The Assistant Secretary shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Deacons.
- c. The Assistant Secretary shall serve in the absence of the Secretary.

6. Sunday School Superintendent

- a. The Sunday School Superintendent shall be recommended by the Nominating Committee, endorsed by the Board of Deacons, and approved by the church members.
- b. The Sunday School Superintendent shall serve for a term of two (2) years and may be elected to serve no more than two consecutive terms.
- c. The Sunday School Superintendent shall have general supervision over the Sunday School, its teachers, officers, and programs. He shall be responsible for selecting the Sunday School materials and for setting standards for teachers subject to the approval of the Pastor and Board of Deacons.

7. Sunday School Secretary

- a. The Sunday School Secretary shall be recommended by the Nominating Committee, endorsed by the Board of Deacons, and approved by the church members.
- b. The Sunday School Secretary shall serve for a term of two (2) years and may be elected to serve no more than two consecutive terms.
- c. The Sunday School Secretary shall be responsible for the official Sunday School record keeping, including attendance and financial contributions. He/she shall also work in conjunction with the Sunday School Superintendent to promote the Sunday School programs of the church, purchase and distribute materials, and to perform any other duties deemed necessary or assigned for the purpose of Sunday School promotion and enhancement.

D. Ministerial Staff

Ministerial Staff in addition to the Pastor may include but should not be limited to Youth Minister and Minister of Music.

1. Duties

The Ministerial Staff shall be in charge, in conjunction with the Pastor and under his supervision, of the responsibilities delegated to him/her by the church as specified and described by the job description for that position approved by the church.

2. Termination of Services

The termination of services of ministerial staff shall be the same as those of the pastor.

E. Call

When it is deemed necessary to call other ministerial staff, a Search Committee consisting of at least five members shall be appointed by the Board of Deacons. The Search Committee will seek candidates, interview candidates, and then recommend to the Board of Deacons the candidate it prefers.

1. A meeting to vote upon a candidate for a ministerial position in the church must be published and announced for at least two weeks prior to that meeting.
2. The candidate for a specified ministerial position shall be recommended by the Search Committee and the Board of Deacons and be accepted by at least seventy-five percent (75%) vote of the eligible voting members present at an officially called business meeting.

F. Non-Ministerial Staff

The church must approve all non-ministerial staff positions. Whenever a vacancy occurs, or a new position is approved, the Board of Deacons shall employ a person to carry out the responsibilities and duties required of the position. The Board of Deacons shall have the authority to discharge, at its own discretion, any person in a non-ministerial staff position.

G. Board of Directors

The Board of Deacons shall function as Board of Directors. The currently serving Deacons shall, meeting and acting together, constitute the Board of Directors of Pleasant Union Christian Church. Such Board of Directors shall change by and in the same procedure as for the terms of the Deacons so that the Board of Directors shall perpetually be the same as the Board of Deacons. In their capacity as Directors, they shall have the duties and responsibilities attendant to Directors, subject however, to the limitations set forth in the charter and bylaws. The Directors shall not have power, except as expressly authorized by the church members, to purchase or sell or encumber any real or personal property, to install or remove officers or staff, to amend the bylaws or charter, or to bind the corporation to any contract except as provided in these bylaws.

H. Corporate Officers

The Chairman of the Deacons shall, whenever required by law or practice, serve as the President of the Corporation, having however only such express powers as are granted by the church members, and having no power absent such express authorization to bind the corporation in any matter or act for it. In a similar manner and subject to the same limitations, the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Deacons shall be authorized to act as the Vice President. The Church Secretary shall serve whenever required by law or practice as the Secretary of the Corporation. The Church Treasurer shall serve whenever required by law or practice as the Treasurer of the Corporation.

I. Committees

1. Nominating Committee

- a. The Nominating Committee will be comprised of the Sunday School Superintendent, who will serve as chairman, and three other members appointed by the Board of Deacons.
- b. Members will serve for a period of two (2) years, split term with Superintendent, and may be elected to serve no more than two consecutive terms.
- c. The Nominating Committee will solicit and recommend teachers and officers to the Board of Deacons for the various positions of the Church.

2. Finance Committee

- a. The Finance Committee will be comprised of the Church Treasurer, who will serve as chairman, the Assistant Church Treasurer, and three other members appointed by the Board of Deacons and approved by the church members.
- b. The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer will serve at the pleasure of the Board of Deacons.
- c. The three additional members of the Finance Committee shall serve six year terms, with one member rotating off and being replaced every two years.
- d. The Finance Committee shall carry out any duties assigned by the Board of Deacons and assist the Deacons with financial decisions when necessary.

3. Missions Committee

- a. The Missions Committee will be comprised of four (4) members appointed by the Board of Deacons and approved by the church members.
- b. The term of service will be four (4) years with the two senior members being replaced every two years.
- c. The Missions Committee shall maintain contact with the missionaries that the Church supports and shall keep the church members informed through reports at general business meetings, periodic newsletters, and other appropriate means. The Missions Committee shall work with the Pastor in scheduling Conferences and meetings with Missionaries on furlough and prospective new Missionaries to support.

4. Youth Committee

- a. The Youth Committee shall be comprised of four (4) members appointed by the Board of Deacons and approved by the church members.
- b. The term of service will be four (4) years with the two senior members being replaced every two years.
- c. The Youth Committee shall assist the Youth Minister in developing programs, obtaining training materials, scheduling events, and securing personnel to work with the youth.
- d. The Youth Committee shall be responsible for selecting and recommending a Vacation Bible School Director(s) to the Board of Deacons for approval each year.

5. Other Committees

All other committees necessary to the operations of the church will serve by appointment for two years or until the functions of that committee are fulfilled. These committees are intended to give our members opportunities to use their God-given talents and wisdom in the ministry of the Church.

ARTICLE IX - FINANCES

A. The Church shall be supported by voluntary contributions from its members who shall give according to their abilities and according to the dictates of their own consciences.

No organization of the Church shall use paid performances, sales, or forceful solicitations to raise money for the Church.

B. The Church Treasurer shall keep records of all financial transactions and shall submit a quarterly financial report to the Board of Deacons. The Deacons shall make that report available to the members of the Church.

C. The Board of Deacons is responsible for all properties and financial dealings of the Church.

D. Expenditures necessary to the on-going operation of the church shall be approved by the Deacon Board and reported to the membership. Major expenditures (approximately \$1000.00 or more) must be approved by the membership at a business meeting.

ARTICLE X - MISSIONARY SUPPORT

A. The procedure for taking on or dropping the financial support of a missionary will be as follows.

1. The Missions Committee may consider and recommend to the Board of Deacons missionaries for support or dismissal.

2. The Deacons will discuss the Missions Committee's recommendations and present their decision to the church members.

3. A majority vote by the church members will be required to ratify the Deacon's decision.

B. Missionaries supported by this church will be expected to be in agreement with the faith and covenant of our church.

1. It will be the responsibility of the Pastor to present each missionary candidate a copy of our Statement of Faith and our Covenant (Articles IV and VI of these by-laws).

2. The Pastor will report to the Missions Committee the missionary candidate's response.

ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENTS

Amendments or additions to these bylaws shall be presented in writing to the Board of Deacons for their prayerful consideration. If approved by the Board of Deacons, those amendments shall be presented to the membership for consideration at a business meeting. Notice of the meeting shall be posted in the church and announced from the pulpit for at least three (3) Sundays prior to the meeting at which they are to be considered.

Changes to these bylaws shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the eligible members present and at least eighteen (18) years of age.

ARTICLE XII - DISSOLUTION

Should Pleasant Union Christian Church through insolvency, persecution, strife, neglect or any other reason find it no longer possible to operate as set forth in these by-laws, the church members may vote to dissolve its existence by a three-fourths vote of its eligible members present at an official business meeting, with the following stipulations:

1. All liabilities shall be paid in terms satisfactory to the creditors.
2. All property, money, and assets remaining shall be transferred to another church of like faith or other non-profit missionary or educational organization in harmony with the purposes herein expressed.
3. A majority vote of the eligible members present at the meeting for dissolution shall determine who will receive the assets of the church.
4. Notice of dissolution shall be sent in writing to each member at least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled meeting, and public announcement shall be given for at least four (4) Sundays prior to the meeting.
5. No funds shall inure to the benefit of any individual or organization not organized and operated for religious purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future U.S. Internal Revenue Law).