

By-Laws of Eastgate Community Church

The name by which this corporation shall be known is “Eastgate Community Church”, referred to herein as the “church”, a non-profit corporation incorporated under the laws of the State Of Ohio.

The Constitution of our Church is as follows:

ARTICLE 1 PRIMARY PURPOSE

The specific and primary purpose of this church shall be:

“Making an Impact in the world today! To Love, To Grow, and To Serve!”

1. The church has been chosen by God to make a Kingdom Impact in the world in which we live, individually, as well as corporately; joining together with the entire Body of Christ to see our community, nation, and world transformed into the likeness of Christ Jesus.
2. To engage in spiritual work and services, based upon the authority of the Holy Bible.
3. To do all things necessary, expedient, or appropriate to the accomplishment of any of the
objects and purposes for which the church is formed.
4. The church shall not engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the primary purpose of the church.
5. No part of the net earnings of our church shall be used for the benefit of, or be distributable
to its members/attendees, trustees, officers, or other private persons. Also, the church shall
pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and make payments/distributions for
the exempt purposes for which it was formed - which is exclusively for religious purposes.
6. The church shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an Association exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501 (C) (3) of the internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or by a corporation, contributions, to which are deductible under Section 170 (c) (2) of
The Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law)

ARTICLE II STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

What we believe.....

GOD

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are on God.
Genesis 1:1,26,27; 3:22, Psalm 90:2, Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14

(1)

MAN

Man is made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him, in character. He is the supreme object of God's creation. Although man has tremendous potential for good, he is marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin". This attitude separated man from God.

Genesis 1:27, Psalm 8:3-6, Isaiah 53:6a, Romans 3:23, Isaiah 59:1-2

ETERNITY

Man was created to exist forever. He will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or in union with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are places of eternal existence.

John 3:16, John 2:25, John 5:11-13, Romans 6:23, Revelation 20:15, 1 John 5:11-12, Matthew 25:31-46

JESUS CHRIST

Jesus the Messiah is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life. He offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all men, by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again to earth to reign as King of kings, and Lord of lords.

Matthew 1:22-23; Isaiah 9:6, John 1:1-5, 14:10-30, Hebrews 4:14-15, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

SALVATION

Salvation is a gift from God to man. Man can never make up for his sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus, the Messiah, as God's offer of forgiveness can man be saved from sin's penalty. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus into his life by faith.

Romans 6:23, Ephesians 2:8-9, John 14:6, Titus 3:5, And Galatians 3:26, Romans 5:1

ETERNAL SECURITY

Because God gives man eternal life through Jesus the Messiah, the believer is secure in salvation for eternity. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God - not by self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives this security.

John 10:29, 2 Timothy 1:12, Hebrews 7:25; 10:10-14, 1 Peter 1:3-5

HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son as God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus, the Messiah. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of

spiritual truth. Also, guidance in doing what is right. The Christian seeks to live under His control daily.

2 Corinthians 3:17, John 16:7-13; 14:16-17; Acts 1:8, 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16, Ephesians 1:13

HOLY SCRIPTURES

The sole basis of our belief is in the Bible, which is uniquely God-inspired, without error, and the final authority on all matters on which it bears. The Bible is God's Word to all men. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of Truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is Truth without any mixture of error.

2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 1:13, Psalm 119:105-160, Proverbs 30:5

(2)

THE CHURCH

We believe that all people, anywhere, who acknowledge Jesus the Messiah, as Savior and Lord, make up the one true church. The purpose of our local church is to reach unbelievers with the message of salvation, serve as the corporate body for worship of God, and provide fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ, and for the edifying of the Church Body. Additionally, our purpose is to develop the gifts and talents of the believers for Godly service.

BAPTISM AND HOLY COMMUNION

We believe baptism and communion are God's ordinances to be observed by believers in Jesus Christ, but not to be regarded as a means of salvation. (Mt.28:18-20; Mk 16:15-16; Heb. 10:24)

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Anyone, who believes in Jesus Christ, and agrees with, and follows our beliefs as stated in Article II

of our By-Laws, are welcome to attend our church. We do not take a legalized position on formal membership induction into our church. Our congregation consists of "regular" attendees. Individuals who wish to call themselves "member" may do so. Those whom we call regular attendees or those who call themselves "members", are asked to subscribe to the Purpose Statement outlined in Article I, the Statement of Beliefs in Article II listed above, and the Statement of Practice listed below.

MEETING OF REGULAR ATTENDEES

Eastgate Community Church is not a democracy, but a Theocracy. We respect the voice of our

congregation, which we term as "church family". At times, we will value feedback, or "consensus

of our church family" with regards to the following:

- A. The calling of a Senior Pastor or Interim Senior Pastor
- B. The removal of a Senior Pastor or Interim Senior Pastor
- C. Matters upon which the Trustees desire to have the "feedback, or "sense" of our Church Body, also known as congregation, or "church family".

The annual meeting of the regular attendees, “members”, shall be called by the Trustees. The date, time, and location of all congregational meetings will be announced orally or in the church bulletin at least two Sundays prior to the time set for the meeting.

Our annual meeting will be held in October of each year. The purpose is to hear reports on the business of the church, make inquiries of the Pastor/s regarding the affairs, both business and spiritual, of our church, and seeking God as to the progress and direction of the church.

ARTICLE IV GOVERNMENT

THE HEADSHIP OF CHRIST

The government of the church shall be focused on seeking and maintaining the Lordship and direction of Jesus Christ over His Body. All those in authority shall continually seek His mind and will, through His Spirit and the Word of God in all actions and decisions.

(3)

APPOINTMENT OF THE SENIOR PASTOR

A candidate for Senior Pastor requires appointment by the affirmative vote of at least seventy-five percent of the Trustees. A “sense of our church family” vote may be taken to confirm the Trustee’s decision. However, the “sense of the church family” vote shall be non-binding and of no legal effect. A Senior Pastor shall remain and continue as such, until his death, resignation, or removal of his position stated below.

RESIGNATION OF THE SENIOR PASTOR

In the event of the resignation of the Senior Pastor, the resigning Pastor may be asked by the Trustees to nominate a successor. The resigning Senior Pastor may be permitted to participate in the appointment of his successor with approval from the remaining members of the Board of Trustees.

REMOVAL OF THE SENIOR PASTOR

After giving due consideration to the conflict resolution procedures in Article VI (see Conflict Resolution below), any 2 members of the Board of Trustees may call a special meeting of the trustees regarding the potential removal of the Senior Pastor. If the seventy-five percent or more of the Trustees agree that the Senior Pastor’s pastorship of the church should be terminated, the following step will take place:

1. Trustees will consult within 5 business days, with Philip Miles, or the acting chairperson of Evangel Fellowship International (EFI), which is our church covering and report his/her findings back to the trustees within 10 business days.
2. After review of the majority of trustees, that the senior pastor should be terminated, the trustees shall present their positions to the “members, or regular attendees” of the church at a special meeting. A representative from EFI shall facilitate the meeting.

3. After a “sense of our church family” vote, and with the majority of the Trustees in agreement that the Senior Pastor’s position should be terminated, the trustees shall have the authority to carry out the termination.
4. The Senior Pastor shall not be entitled to vote on such removal.

INTERIM PASTOR:

If for any reason the Senior Pastor cannot fulfill the duties of his office, the trustees shall appoint an interim pastor by first contacting EFI for a temporary replacement candidate, and this must have the affirmative vote of the majority of the trustees.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR:

The Senior Pastor shall define the ministries of any Associate Pastor upon appointment. They shall serve under the Senior Pastor’s direction and with the Senior Pastor in the administration and oversight of the church and its business. Compensation of any such Associate Pastor shall be determined by the Senior Pastor. It will then be up to the majority of the trustees, by an affirmative vote, as to the budgetary, performance consideration, or status of a volunteer, to the position of the Associate Pastor. In addition, the Senior Pastor may appoint any Associate Pastor, with the advice and counsel of the trustees. Furthermore, removal of the Associate Pastor may be removed by the Senior Pastor, with the advice of the trustees, with or without cause.

(4)

TRUSTEES

Effective with the filing of the Articles of Incorporation, the initial trustees were appointed by the incorporator of the church. All successor trustees thereafter, shall first be nominated by the Senior Pastor and then confirmed by at least 2/3rds of the current acting trustees.

TRUSTEE QUALIFICATIONS

1. Qualifications revolve primarily around character, knowledge and skill
2. Be a tithing member/regular attendee of the Eastgate Community Church
3. Reside in the local community
4. Must show evidence in his/her life of integrity, loyalty to the pastoral staff
5. Serving on the Leadership Team
6. Have a proven record of trustworthiness, teachable, and anointing for leadership
7. Strong and stable marriage with support for church leadership from his/her spouse (1Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9 - Biblical reference for these qualifications)

DUTIES OF THE TRUSTEES

1. Pray for the church and offer counsel/advice about the church to the Senior Pastor.
2. Oversee the business of the church under the leadership of the Senior Pastor.
3. Ratify changes in the By-Laws of the church by the unanimous vote of the trustees.
4. Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws or Ohio Law, shall be exercised by or under the authority of the trustees and shall be controlled by the trustees. This includes the business affairs of the church.
5. Determine the compensation and benefits of the Senior Pastor, pastoral staff, and non-pastoral staff. This includes annual performance evaluation of the same.

6. Advise the Senior Pastor on the hiring/removal of any pastoral staff and non-pastoral staff.
7. The trustees shall be responsible to review and audit the church financials. This is performed once a month at Eastgate Community Church. Also, responsible for financial related matters under the leadership of the Senior Pastor, and/or church administrator, or both.

NUMBER OF TRUSTEES

The number of trustees will be a minimum of 3 individuals at any one time, and the maximum individuals serving in this capacity, will be determined by the Senior Pastor as church growth continues.

TERMS OF OFFICE

In accordance with our covering through EFI, the term of the office of trustee will be a minimum of 1 year of service, or for an indefinite period of time thereafter.

REMOVAL OF OFFICE

After giving consideration to Article VI, titled "Conflict Resolution", a trustee, other than the Senior Pastor, may be removed from office prior to his/her completion of their term, by the recommendation of the Senior Pastor, and with approval by 2/3rds of the remaining trustees. Such removal may be with or without cause.

(5)

COMPENSATION OF TRUSTEES

No compensation for services shall be provided. This includes the Senior Pastor or other pastoral staff whose compensation is for their ministerial/administrative duties.

QUORUM (business transactions)

For the transaction of business, if for any reason there is a vacancy in the majority of trustees present to vote, a trustee may elect a successor trustee to fill any vacancy, for the unexpired term, if such successor trustee has first been nominated by the Senior Pastor.

MEETINGS OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trustees shall meet a minimum of quarterly, or more frequently as called by the Senior Pastor, or at the request of a majority of the other trustees. Regular meetings of the trustees may be held at any place and time designated by the Senior Pastor. Our trustees meet once a month.

ACTION OF TRUSTEES WITHOUT MEETING

Any action required or permitted to be taken by the trustees, may be taken without a meeting, if all members shall individually or collectively consent in writing to that action. Such written consent or consents shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the trustees.

ARTICLE V ORDINATION AND LICENSING

The “calling” of a pastor or other ministers of the Gospel is from the true and living God. Evangel Fellowship International (EFI) is the covering by which Eastgate Community Church is accountable.

It shall be the ordaining authority for those seeking ordination, and will be asked to follow all of the ordination and licensing requirements given by E.F.I., or the State of Ohio.

ARTICLE VI CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Our church is committed to resolving all disputes that may arise in our Church Body, in a Biblical

manner, as Holy Scriptures teach us to strive earnestly to live at peace with one another. (Mt.:5:9;

Jn. 17:20-23; Rom. 12:18; and Eph. 4:1-3). In addition, our Church Body should resolve them according to the principles set for in Holy Scriptures (Prov. 19:11; Mt. 5:23-25; 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 6:1-8; Gal. 6:1). The scriptural commands and principles are obligatory and essential for the well- being work of our Church and are provided in these By-Laws.

MANNER OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Our members (regular church attendees) are expected to attempt to resolve any matters as follows:

1. The offended or concerned party should first examine him or herself and take responsibility for his/her contribution to the problem (Mt. 7:3-5) Then, he/she should prayerfully seek to discern whether the offense is so serious that it cannot be overlooked (Prov. 19:11; Prov. 12:16; 15:18; 17:14; 20:3; Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:13; 1 Ptr.4:8)
2. If the offense is too serious to overlook, the offended person or concerned member (regular attendee) shall go to the offender, repeatedly, and talk to the offender in an effort to resolve the matter personally and privately, having first confess his/her own wrongdoing (Mt. 18:15)

(6)

3. If the offender will not listen, and the problem too serious to overlook, this said person shall return with one or two other people, who will attempt to help the parties resolve their differences (Mt. 18:15). The other parties may be regular attendees (members) of our Church, respected Christians in the community, or trained mediators or arbitrators (conciliators) from a Christian conciliation ministry. The church shall make every effort to assist the parties in resolving their differences and being reconciled.

ARTICLE VII BOOKS AND RECORDS

The church shall keep correct and complete records of account together with minutes of the proceedings of its incorporators, Board of Trustees, and committees. Upon request and appointment, members (regular attendees) of the church may review the books or records.

ARTICLE VIII

The fiscal year of our church shall begin on the first day of January in each year and shall end on the last day of December.

ARTICLE IX DISSOLUTION AND LIQUIDATION OF THE CHURCH

The trustees of the church may determine to cease corporate activities of the church and dissolve and liquidate the church by the affirmative vote of at least 75 percent of the trustees. Upon dissolution of the church, the following will take place by direction of the trustees:

1. Pay or make provision for payment of all liabilities of the church

2. Dispose of all of the assets of the church exclusively to Evangel Fellowship International (EFI), for religious purposes and at the time qualify as an exempt organization within the meaning of Section 501 © (3) of the internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding provision of any future United States internal revenue law), as the trustees determine.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS

The trustees shall have the exclusive power to amend these By-Laws for the church, upon the unanimous vote of the members of the Board of Trustees.

The date these By-Laws of Eastgate Community Church were last amended 1/11/2018
