

# **Kingman Christian Church By-Laws**

**Amended: October 2006**

## **ARTICLE 1: NAME**

This organization shall be called the Kingman Christian Church.

## **ARTICLE 2: PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Kingman Christian Church is to aggressively fulfill the last and greatest commandment of Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20) by providing various avenues for evangelism of the lost and spiritual growth of the redeemed.

## **ARTICLE 3: BELIEFS**

As an independent, non-denominational church, the Pastors, Lay Pastors/Elders, and members at Kingman Christian Church believe:

Sec. 1: The Bible is divinely inspired and inerrant (II Timothy 3:16-17).

Sec. 2: God is One substance, revealed in Three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Isaiah 44:6ff, John 8:24 & 58, Acts 6).

Sec. 3: Man is by nature a sinner from birth (Psalm 51:5).

Sec. 4: Jesus Christ was virgin-born, sinless, died on the cross for sins, was raised bodily from the dead on the third day, and is coming again in the same body which He ascended (Matthew 1:18, Hebrews 4:15, I Corinthians 15:3-4, John 14:3). He is fully God and fully man, God the Son, second person of the Trinity (John 8:24, 58).

Sec. 5: Salvation is a free gift, bestowed by God's grace and received by faith (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Sec. 6: Immersion in water of a professed believer is the Bible baptism (Acts 8:36-39) and such baptism is symbolic of Christ's death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6:1-4).

Sec. 7: A believer's salvation is secured by Christ alone (John 10:27-28).

Sec. 8: The church is the bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:25-33) and the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12).

Sec. 9: The local church is governed by godly men known as elders or Pastors (Titus 1:5ff).

Sec. 10: The purpose of the church on earth is to fulfill the last command of Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20).

Sec 11: Christians are endowed with spiritual gifts which enable them to serve in the church (Ephesians 4:12ff).

Sec. 12: The Holy Spirit, which every believer receives at conversion (Ephesians 1:13-14), leads and guides us. He is a personality, and is God the Spirit, third person of the Trinity (Acts 5:1ff).

## **ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP**

Sec. 1: A candidate for membership must accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (Acts 16:31).

Sec. 2: A candidate must be baptized as a believer, out of obedience to Christ as Lord (Acts 2:38). We recognize as valid, a believer's baptism previously administered.

Sec. 3: Upon completion of the above requirements, the candidate upon agreeing to the beliefs and practices of Kingman Christian Church will be admitted to membership publicly.

Sec. 4: Regarding church discipline, Biblically, we are to follow the steps of Matthew 18:15ff in the case of a sinning brother or sister. The Bible states that believers in the body are to judge other believers (I Corinthians 5:12) and that the church is to be obedient and submissive to its spiritual leaders (Hebrews 13:17).

## **ARTICLE 5: CHURCH ORGANIZATION AND ORDER**

Sec. 1: The congregation, while acting under the leadership of the Pastors, retains the ultimate authority in all matters pertaining to the business and ministry of the church. Congregational meetings shall be held regularly as needed with two weeks prior notice given orally or in writing. All members age 16 and over are welcome to participate.

### **Sec. 2: Pastors**

Sec. 2a1: A Senior Pastor shall be called by the congregation operating under the direction of the Lay Pastors/Elders (described below) following an appropriate search and interview process. The salary and compensation of the Senior Pastor shall be determined by the Lay Pastor/Elders with input and suggestions provided by the Finance Committee (described in Article 6).

Sec. 2a2: A Senior Pastor may be dismissed by the Lay Pastor/Elders if, after following the steps outlined regarding church discipline in Article 4, Section 4, it is determined that the Senior Pastor is (a) guilty of heresy, heresy being defined as teaching doctrine that is clearly contrary to an orthodox, evangelical understanding of Scripture, (b) guilty of a lifestyle that is not compatible with Christian character as described in the New Testament, or (c) causing dissention in such a way that is harmful to the continued life and growth of Kingman Christian Church.

Sec. 2b1: Staff Pastors shall be added by the congregation upon the recommendation of the Senior Pastor

Sec. 2b2: Staff Pastors may be dismissed following the guidelines listed above in Section 2a2 regarding issues of doctrine, character, or dissention. Regarding job performance issues, the Senior Pastor shall be primarily responsible for the oversight of the Staff Pastors. If it is determined that a Staff Pastor is unable or unwilling to effectively perform their duties, a reasonable probationary period may be entered into in which the Staff Pastor has the opportunity to make necessary changes. If at the end of the probationary period it is determined that insufficient progress has been made, the Senior Pastor working in consultation with the Lay Pastor/Elders may proceed with consideration and planning of dismissal and transition regarding the particular Staff Pastor.

Sec. 2c: Lay/Pastors/Elders are those members of the congregation who have completed extensive training and perform pastoral duties on a volunteer basis.

Sec. 2c1: Lay Pastors/Elder candidates shall be selected by the present Lay Pastor Elders.

Sec. 2c2: Qualified Lay Pastor/Elder candidates shall be presented to the congregation for consideration. Following a three-week period of consideration, candidates may be added to the Lay Pastor/Elder team.

Sec. 2c3: Lay Pastor/Elders may be ordained by the congregation under the direction of the Pastors and Lay Pastors. This status of ordination will grant these individuals with all of the rights and privileges associated therewith.

Sec. 2c4: Lay Pastor/Elders may be dismissed following the guidelines described in Section 2a2 above.

Sec. 2d: The **Senior Pastor** and the **Lay Pastor/Elders** should meet regularly to discuss and direct the affairs of the church as described in Article 2 and Article 3 Section 9 above, under the direction of the Senior Pastor. There should be a written agenda distributed at least three days prior to the meeting, and the names of those in attendance shall be written on the master copy of the agenda.

Sec. 3: **Ministers or Associate Minister/Deacons** are those appointed by the Lay Pastor/Elders to be responsible for the administration of a particular ministry task or tasks as deemed necessary. A **Minister** may be paid and operate in a staff position under the direction of the Senior Pastor. **Associate Ministers/Deacons** are typically voluntary positions that operate under the direction of any of the Pastors, Lay Pastors/ Elders, or Ministers.

Sec. 3a: **Ministers, Associate Ministers/Deacons** may be ordained by the congregation under the direction of the Pastors and Lay Pastors. This status or ordination will grant these individuals with all of the rights and privileges associated therewith.

Sec. 3b: Ordination as described in Section 3a above shall be considered rescinded when an individual **Minister/Associate Minister** is no longer affiliated with Kingman Christian Church.

## **ARTICLE 6: FINANCES**

Sec. 1: The Pastors and Lay Pastors/Elders are ultimately responsible for the handling and distribution of church income (I Timothy 5:17). Part of this responsibility includes keeping the congregation informed and involved in the finances of the church.

Sec. 2: The books of Kingman Christian Church shall be open for review by anyone. The monthly financial statement shall be posted or otherwise made available to all members.

Sec. 3: An annual budget should be prepared by an annually appointed budget committee.

Sec. 3a: Members of the budget committee shall be appointed by the Pastors and Lay Pastors/Elders.

Sec. 3b: The committee should include one and only one member of the Leadership team.

Sec. 3c: Close relatives (parents, in-laws, siblings), spouses, or children of Pastors or Lay Pastor/Elders should not be members of the budget committee.

Sec. 4: Any offerings received designated for a specific use must be so used or returned to the giver. If this is not possible, these funds may be added to the building fund.

Sec. 5: All funds, property, and other assets shall belong to the church as a corporate entity. Acquiring or selling of any and all such assets shall be managed by the Leadership Team. No Pastor, Lay Pastor/Elder, Minister, or any other individual shall benefit personally and directly from the purchase or sale of any such assets associated with the operations of the Kingman Christian Church.

Sec. 6: Salaries for pastors, ministers, or any other persons in the employ of Kingman Christian Church shall be determined by the budget committee. Any individual who is the subject of such remuneration must recuse themselves from participation in this aspect of budget preparation.

#### **ARTICLE 7: AMENDMENTS**

These by-laws may be amended by a unanimous affirmative vote of the pastors and Lay Pastors/Elders followed by a majority affirmative vote of the congregation.

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I/We are in agreement with the above by-laws and pledge to abide by them.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_