

Atlanta Chinese Christian Church Northwest Inc.

By-Laws

Chapter I Introduction

- Article 1. The name of this church shall be Atlanta Chinese Christian Church Northwest, Inc. hereafter referred to as the "Church".
- Article 2. The Church is a Christian body, existing under the laws of the State of Georgia.

Chapter II Objectives

- Article 3. The church is an interdenominational church. Its objectives shall be in obedience to His Holy will to (a) preach the gospel of Jesus Christ as the Lord and true Savior, (b) by means of the dedication of its congregation, glorify God and build the body of Jesus Christ.

Chapter III Statement of Faith

- Article 4. As the statement of faith, we, the congregation of the Church, believe and proclaim:
- a. The Bible  
We believe the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired Word of God without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for the Salvation of man, and the Divine and final authority for all Christian faith and life.
  - b. God  
We believe in one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
  - c. Christ  
We believe that Jesus Christ is true God and true man, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died on the cross a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, where He now is our High Priest and Advocate, at the right hand of the Majesty on High.
  - d. Holy Spirit  
We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and during this age to convict men, regenerate the believing sinner, and indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for godly living and service.

- e. Man  
We believe that man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is therefore lost and only through regeneration by the Holy Spirit can salvation and spiritual life be obtained.
- f. Salvation  
We believe that the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground for justification and salvation for all who believe, are only such as receive Jesus Christ are born of the Holy Spirit, and thus become children of God.
- g. Sacrament  
We believe that water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be observed by the church during the present age. They are, however not to be regarded as means of salvation.
- h. Church  
We believe that the true Church is composed of all such persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the body of Christ of which He is the Head to proclaim the entrusted Gospel.
- i. Advent  
We believe that Jesus Christ will bodily return in the eschaton to judge the living and the dead this glorious hope is foundational to our Christian living and service.
- j. Eternal Life  
We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead, of the believer to everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord, of the unbeliever to judgement and everlasting conscious punishment.

#### Chapter IV Sacraments

- Article 5. Baptism shall be held for those who have been born again and are willing to manifest to their faith in Jesus Christ in front of the congregation and to the entire world.
- Article 6. As the Holy Spirit directs, there should be the Lord's Supper for the believers in remembrance of Christ's death on the cross.
- Article 7. A marriage shall be held for the union of a man and a woman, providing:
  - a. That the partners of the marriage shall be born again Christians and that this union of man and woman be ordained by the will of the Lord. A believer in Christ shall not be yoked together with an unbeliever (2 Cor. 6:14).

- b. That the procedures and ceremonies of the wedding shall be performed in such a way that they do not contradict the truth of the Bible nor the local and national laws.
- c. The partners should consult the Pastor of the Church in advance and prayer shall be conducted sincerely and solemnly. A complete plan of the various ceremonies of the wedding shall be presented.

Article 8. Whenever appropriate, a memorial service shall be held for the deceased believer in which the truth of the Bible shall be observed.

#### Chapter V Organization

Article 9. Pastor

- a. The Pastor is a full-time servant of God with faith in line with the items listed in Chapter III of the By-Laws. He must have a clear calling with gifts from God to shepherd the flock and be approved by a unanimous vote of the Deacon Board.
- b. The Pastor's responsibilities include praying, preaching the truth of God, shepherding the flock, representing the Church, conducting church services, and coordinating with the Deacon Board in planning and executing the church affairs.
- c. The term of office of the Pastor shall be four years. When reproved by the Deacon Board, the Pastor may serve for more than one term. The Church shall be responsible for his living expenses and medical insurance.

Article 10. Deacons

- a. A Deacon shall be a born again Christian who is qualified by the standards of the Bible (1 Timothy 3:8-13) and is willing to take the responsibilities of the office. A candidate for the office of Deacon shall be nominated by the Congregation and approved by a unanimous vote of the existing Deacon Board. The election shall be announced to the Congregation.
- b. The term of office of Deacon shall be for two years. A Deacon may serve consecutively for two terms. The person who has served as a Deacon may serve again after a minimum of two years of absence from the Deacon Board.

Article 11. Deacon Board

- a. The Deacon Board shall be the decision-making unit, in which plans and actions of the Church are determined and initiated. The Deacon Board shall be responsible for administering the overall business of the Church.
- b. There shall be no less than ten (10) Deacons in the Deacon Board.

- c. The term of Deacons shall be arranged so that no more than one-half of the Deacons in the Deacon Board shall be re-elected each year. The nomination and election for the new Deacons shall be finalized by the end of August of the year, and the newly elected Deacons shall start sitting in the Deacon Board meeting in September and assume their office on the first day of January of the following year.
- d. The newly elected Deacons and the existing Deacons shall organize a new Deacon Board and elect a Chairperson. In the meantime, the responsibilities of each Deacon shall be adjusted. The adjustment shall be determined after prayerful consideration of the all the Deacons. The establishment of the Deacon Board and the adjustment of responsibilities among the Deacons shall be dully announced.
- e. The term of office of chairperson of the Deacon Board shall be 2 years. A chairperson shall not be re-elected to serve consecutively more than one term. The Chairperson of the Deacon board shall have the responsibilities to call and preside over the Deacon Board meetings.
- f. The Deacon Board shall hold a regular meeting each month to plan and to take action on the business of the Church.

#### Chapter VI Services

- Article 12. Following the guidance of the Holy Spirit, there shall be the following services held by the Church:
- a. Worship service on every Sunday.
  - b. Bible classes for the adults, youth and children on every Sunday.
  - c. Fellowship Group meetings held at various locations.
  - d. Prayer meetings at various locations.
  - e. Special meetings for evangelical and spiritual enrichment purposes.

#### Chapter VII Others

- Article 13. The Articles of By-Laws shall be regarded only as guidelines to regulate the organization and the administration of the Church. It shall be emphasized that the Lord Jesus Christ is the foundation on which a church is built. It shall be stressed that any action or decision to be taken by the Church shall be guided by the Holy Spirit.

Article 14. The By-Laws shall be reviewed periodically and revised whenever necessary. After prayerful consideration, revision shall be initiated. Any revision of the By-Laws shall be adopted by a unanimous vote of the Deacon Board and shall be announced to the Church congregation.

Article 15. The By-Laws have proceeded from the first reading by the Deacon Board, and announced to the congregation. Accordingly, the By-Laws are announced to be effective on October 19, 2008.