

Bylaws

for

PINECREST COMMUNITY CHURCH

Parker, Colorado



ARTICLE I

NAME AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE

The Name of the Corporation is Pinecrest Community Church.

This corporation will be further referred to in the Bylaws as the “Church”.

The Church maintains its principal office at 7165 North Delbert Road, Parker, Colorado. The Elders of the Church shall have full power and authority to change the principal office from one location to another.

The Church shall have and continually maintain a registered office and a registered agent in the State of Colorado as required by the Colorado Nonprofit Corporation Act. Such registered office or agent may be changed from time to time as provided by the Colorado Nonprofit Corporation Act.

ARTICLE II

MISSION & PURPOSE OF PINECREST

Mission

Our mission, as taught by Jesus Christ, is to fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission (Mark 12:28-31; Matthew 28:19).

Purpose

Our purpose is to be a thriving community growing in faith while reaching those not on the journey with Jesus. The purposes for which the Church is formed are exclusively religious, educational and charitable within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of IRS code of 1986.

ARTICLE III

AFFILIATION

The Church is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs, independent of any denominational control. However, the Church recognizes the benefits of cooperation and encourages fellowship with other churches, individuals, or organizations of like faith and vision.

ARTICLE IV

STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Bible is our only standard for beliefs, behaviors and attitudes. The following Statement of Faith identifies the essential Biblical truths, which we wholeheartedly believe, teach, and obey as fundamental to our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We also understand there are non-essential, broader doctrinal issues that can have a range of interpretations within the Christian community and believe we should grant one another grace in interpretations of these non-essential beliefs. We strive to teach biblically sound theology and to mature in our Christian faith and understanding of God and His Word in a community of grace. In essential beliefs-we must seek unity with other Christians. *“There is one Body and one Spirit...there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all...”* (Ephesians 4:4-6).

In non-essential beliefs-we should have liberty with other Christians

“Accept him whose faith is lacking, without passing judgment on disputable matters... Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls... So then each of us will give an account of himself to God... So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.” (Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22).

In all our beliefs-we need to demonstrate charity toward other Christians

“If I hold my mind not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God, and if I have the faith that can move mountains — but have not love, I amount to nothing at all.” (1 Corinthians 13:2, Phillips paraphrase).

- 1. The Holy Scriptures:** We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21, Matthew 5:18).
- 2. God:** We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons- Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4, 2 Corinthians 13:14). We believe God is spirit, eternal, from everlasting to everlasting the same, creator of all things, all powerful, all knowing, everywhere present, never changing His nature, and always loving. He is active in His creation now, controlling and sustaining it (John 4:24; Luke 24:39; Psalm 90:2; James 1:17; Isaiah 44:24; Revelation 19:6; 1 John 3:20; Psalm 147:5, 139:7-10).

- 3. The Person and Work of Christ:** We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man (John 1:1-2, 12, 14; Luke 1:35). We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice, and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Romans 3:24-25, 1 Peter 2:24, Ephesians 1:7, 1 Peter 1:3-5). We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God the Father, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate (Acts 1:9; Hebrews 7:25, 9:24; Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1-2).
- 4. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit:** We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, and He is the supernatural agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption (John 16:8-11, 2 Cor 3:6, 1 Cor 12:13, Romans 8:9, Ephesians 1:13-14). We believe that He is the divine teacher who guides believers into all truth; and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be controlled by the Spirit (John 16:13; 1 John 2:20, 27; Ephesians 5:18). We believe that He gives spiritual gifts to each believer to be used for the building up of His church (1 Peter 4:10).
- 5. The Total Depravity of Man:** We believe man was created in the image and likeness of God, but because of Adam's sin the human race fell. Therefore, mankind inherited a sinful nature, became alienated from God and is of himself totally unable to remedy his lost condition (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:22-23, 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12).
- 6. Salvation:** We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins (Ephesians 2:8-10, John 1:12, Ephesians 1:7, 1 Peter 1:18-19).
- 7. The Eternal State:** We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29, 11:25-26; Rev 20:5-6, 12-13).
- 8. Sanctification:** We believe that sanctification constitutes a vital part of the believer's relationship with the Lord as well as His earthly life and service, that God's part of sanctification is the act of God whereby He sets apart the believer for the glory of God, and man's part of sanctification

involves holiness of life and conduct. The believer maintains holiness of conduct as He allows the Holy Spirit to carry on His ministry within his life. This concerns itself with such practical aspects as confessing sins, making restitution where possible, reading and studying the Word of God, fellowshiping with other believers, praying regularly and being a witness in the world (1 Thessalonians 5:23, 4:3-7, 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14, 1 Corinthians 7:1, Hebrews 12:10-15, Romans 6:11-22). We do not believe that sanctification and sinless perfection are the same. As long as the believer is in his body he is not sinless. However, to the degree to which he relies on the Holy Spirit, he has power over sin (1 John 1:9-2:2).

9. **The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers:** We believe that all the redeemed are kept by God's power and are secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40, 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 38-39; 1 Corinthians 1:4-8; 1 Peter 1:5). Believers have freedom to rejoice in assurance of their salvation. However, God's word clearly forbids use of Christian liberty as a license to sin (Romans 13:13-14, Galatians 5:13, Titus 2:11-15).
10. **The Church:** We believe that the church, which is the body and bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of the present age. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:25-27; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Acts 14:27, 20:17, 28-32; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).
11. **Ordinances:** We believe our Lord left the ordinances of water baptism and communion to be observed by the church, but they are not to be regarded as means of salvation. Water baptism by immersion is an outward physical symbol of an inner personal transaction with the Lord (Matthew 28:19, Acts 2:41, Mark 16:16, Acts 8:35-38). The Lord's Supper is to commemorate the Lord's death on our behalf, and to remind believers of the Lord's return (Luke 22:19-20, 1 Cor. 11:23-28).
12. **The Second Coming of Christ:** We believe in the personal and soon coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and that this "Blessed Hope" has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believer. (1 Thess 4:13-18).
13. **Satan:** We believe that Satan is a person who was created by God as a beautiful angel and was given the name Lucifer. He was given responsibilities over this world (Ezekiel 28:11-19; John 14:30, 16:11). He rebelled against God and became God's enemy (Isaiah 14:12-17). Since then his aim has been to thwart God's will and plan. He is the enemy of every believer as indicated by many different names given to him in the Bible (Psalm 91:3, Matthew 4:3; 1 Peter 5:8, Revelation 20:2).

ARTICLE V

PARTNERSHIP

SECTION I: General

Partnership (traditionally referred to as “membership”) in the Church shall consist of all persons who have met the qualifications to be called a partner and are listed on the partnership roll.

SECTION II: Qualifications for Partnership

1. A personal commitment of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
2. A commitment to make the Bible the guide for their life
3. Completion of the Church’s partnership class
4. A commitment to abide by the partnership covenant

SECTION III: Responsibilities of Partnership

1. Submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the authority of the Bible
2. Support the leadership, the vision and the philosophy of ministry of the Church
3. A commitment to the financial support of the Church
4. A commitment to serve in a ministry of the Church
5. A commitment to pray for the ministry of the Church and the lost of the community

The responsibilities of partnership are further described in the partnership covenant.

SECTION IV: Voting Rights

Partners shall have the right to vote on the following matters:

1. The affirmation of Elders
2. The disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the Church
3. The merger or dissolution of the Church
4. The acquisition of real property and related indebtedness
5. The affirmation call of a new Lead Pastor
6. Amendments to the Articles of incorporation or Bylaws of the Church in accordance with Article XIV

Each of the above matters requires a two-thirds affirmative vote of the partners present in order to pass, with the exception of the affirmation of Elders which requires a majority (greater than 50 percent) of the partners present. Each partner 18 years and older is entitled to one vote. All votes will be by personal private (written) ballot. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

SECTION V: Dispute Resolution

Partners of the Church are Christians (Christ-Followers) and believe that the Bible commands that every effort be made to live at peace and to resolve disputes with each other in private or within the Church (Matthew 18:15-20, 1 Corinthians 6:1-8). Therefore, partners of the Church agree that any claim or dispute arising from or related to Church programs and/or activities shall be settled by biblically based mediation and, if necessary, legally binding arbitration in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation of the Institute for Christian Conciliation. Judgment upon an arbitration award may be entered in any court otherwise having jurisdiction.

Partners agree that these methods shall be the sole remedy for any controversy or claim arising out of such Church programs and activities. Said partners expressly waive their right to file a lawsuit in any civil court either against the Church or its officers and officials or against one another for such disputes, except to enforce an arbitration decision.

SECTION VI: Termination of Partnership

Partners shall be removed from the Church partnership role for the following reasons:

1. Death
2. Transfer of partnership to another church
3. Personal, written request of the partner
4. Neglect of Church attendance, measured by one-year without attendance at Sunday services. This will not apply to those prevented from attending because of age or infirmity; nor to missionaries, and others whose life circumstances require temporary residence in another community.
5. Dismissal by the Elders according to the following conditions:
 - a. The partner's life and conduct is not in accordance with the partnership covenant in such a way that the partner hinders the ministry influence of the Church in the community.
 - b. Procedures for the dismissal of a partner shall be according to Matthew 18:15-17.

SECTION VII: Restoration of Partners

Partners dismissed by the Elders shall be restored by the Elders according to the spirit of 1 Corinthians 2:7-8, when their life-styles are judged to be in accordance with the teaching of the scriptures and the partnership covenant.

ARTICLE VI

PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS

SECTION I: Place

Meetings of the partners shall be held at the principal office of the Church or at such other place or places within Colorado as may be designated from time to time by the Elders.

SECTION II: Annual General Meeting

A general meeting of the partners shall be held annually at such time as determined by the Elders. This general meeting shall be the annual partnership meeting. The primary purpose of this meeting is to update the partners on the general state of Church, review and approval of the General Operating Budget, Affirmation of Elders and any other business as deemed necessary by the Church leadership.

SECTION III: Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called at any time by the Elders.

SECTION IV: Notice Requirements for Partnership Meetings

Whenever partners are required or permitted to take any action at a meeting, notice shall be given to partners no less than two (2) weeks prior to a meeting. Notification of partnership meetings shall be given in any of the following manners which shall be deemed to be a reasonable method of calling a partnership meeting:

1. Distribution of written material to the congregation in attendance at a Sunday service
2. Oral announcement to the congregation at a Sunday service
3. Delivery by United States mail to each partner identified on the partnership roll

SECTION V: Quorum

Those partners present and voting at a meeting duly noticed and called shall constitute a quorum of the partnership for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE VII

ELDERS

SECTION I: Number and Term

The authorized number of Elders shall be, until changed by amendment of the Articles or Incorporation or by a Bylaw duly adopted by the partners, such number as may from time to time be authorized by resolution of the Elders, provided that such number shall not be less than three (3), nor more than fifteen (15). The Elders shall serve a term of three (3) years and may serve no more than two (2) successive terms. If two successive terms are served, an Elder must take at least one full year off his duties to be eligible for re-nomination.

SECTION II: Qualifications and Nomination

Elder candidates must meet the Biblical qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:6-9. The existing Board of Elders and the Lead Pastor will nominate elders candidates to be voted on by partners as described in

SECTION III: Elder Team Replacement

Should an Elder vacate their office before the end of their term is served, the existing Elder's may replace him with another Elder who meets the biblical qualifications cited in Section II. This individual must be a Partner in good standing of the church and pass an interview with both Pastors and Elders. He will only serve for the duration of the remaining term of the office that is being vacated, and future service will depend on his re-appointment by the Elder Team and a following vote of affirmation by the Partners.

SECTION IV: Inaugural Board of Elders Appointment

The inaugural elder candidates will be nominated by the acting leadership team in place at the date the Bylaws are adopted. The inaugural elder candidates will be voted on by the congregation in attendance at the time the Bylaws are adopted.

SECTION V: Removal of an Elder

An Elder can be removed from office at any time if an accusation against the Elder is brought to the Board of Elders by two or more partners (1 Timothy 5:19), and the Board of Elders determines by a majority vote that the Elder is no longer qualified to hold office.

SECTION VI: Responsibilities & Powers

1. **General Corporate Powers:** Subject to the provisions and limitations of the Colorado Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law and any limitations in the Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws, the activities, business and affairs of the Church shall be conducted and all corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the direction of the Elders including the Lead Pastor.
2. **Specific Powers:** Without prejudice to the general powers set forth above, and subject to same limitations, the Elders shall have the power to:
 - a. Select and remove all officers, agents and employees of the Church; prescribe any powers and duties for them that are consistent with law, with the Articles of Incorporation and with these Bylaws; and
 - b. Change the principal executive office or the principal business office of the Church in the State of Colorado from one location to another, and designate any place within or outside the State or Colorado for the holding of any meeting or meetings of the Elders; and
 - c. Adopt, make and use a corporate seal and alter the form of the seal; and
 - d. With the affirmation of the partners, borrow money and incur indebtedness on behalf of the Church and cause to be executed and delivered for the church's purposes and in the Church's name, promissory notes and other evidences of debt and securities; and
 - e. Exercise all other powers conferred by the Colorado Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law or other applicable laws; and
 - f. Determine the compensation of the licensed and/or ordained ministers of the Church.

SECTION VII: Lead Pastor Role as Elder

The Lead Pastor is the spiritual leader of the Church (under the Lordship of Jesus Christ) and is an Elder. He may serve as the Chairman of the Elder Board.

SECTION VIII: Removal of Lead Pastor

The Lead Pastor may only be removed, with or without cause, by a unanimous vote of the Elders at any regular or special meeting. The Lead Pastor will be excluded from voting on such matters. Such matters will be handled biblically according to Matthew 18:15-20 and 1 Cor 6:1-8. In matters related to possible criminal, civil or sexual misconduct, the Pastor will be immediately dismissed.

SECTION IX: Selection of a New Lead Pastor

After a thorough review of references and an interview process approved by the Elder Team, a Lead Pastor candidate shall be considered only after he has subscribed in writing to the doctrinal statement and bylaws of this church. He shall be recommended to the members by 100% of the total number of the Elders and called to serve by at least an 85% affirmative vote of the Partners present at a duly called business meeting.

SECTION X: Pastoral Team

The Lead Pastor and Associate Pastors shall be known as the Pastoral Team. The Pastoral Team shall be made up of individuals that meet all of the requirements for licensure to the Christian Ministry and have been appointed if not employed by the Elder team as a Pastor of Pinecrest Community Church. The Pastoral Team reports directly to the Lead Pastor.

ARTICLE VIII

MEETINGS OF THE ELDERS

SECTION I: Place of Meetings

Regular or special meetings of the Elders may be held at any place within or outside the State of Colorado that has been designated from time to time by resolution of the Elders. In the absence of such Notwithstanding the above provisions of this section, a regular or special meeting of the Elders may be held at any place consented to in writing by all of the Elders, either before or after the meeting. If such consents are given, they shall be filed with the minutes of the meeting. Any meeting, regular or special, may be held by conference telephone or similar communication equipment, as long as all Elders participating in the meeting can hear one another. All such Elders shall be deemed to be present in person at such meeting.

SECTION II: Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the Elders may be held without notice if the time and place of such meetings are fixed by resolution of the Elders.

SECTION III: Special Meetings

1. **Authority to Call:** Special meetings of the Elders may be called for any purpose and at any time by the Lead Pastor or any other Elder.
2. **Notice:**
 - a. **Manner of Giving.** Notice of the time and place of special meetings shall be given to each Elder by one of the following methods: (a) by personal delivery of written notice; (b) by first class mail, postage prepaid; (c) by telephone communication, either directly to the Elder or to a person at the Elder's office or home who the person giving the notice has reason to believe will promptly communicate the notice to the Elder; or (d) by telecopy to the Elder's home or office.
 - b. **Time Requirements.** Notices sent by first class mail shall be deposited in the United States Mail at least four (4) days before the time set for the meeting. Notices given by personal delivery, telephone, telecopy, or telegraph shall be delivered, telephoned, faxed to the Elder or given to the telegraph company at least twenty-four (24) hours before the time set for the meeting.
 - c. **Notice Contents.** The notice shall state the time and place for the meeting. However, the notice does not need to specify the place of the meeting if the special meeting is to be held at the Church's principal office. The notice does need to specify the purpose of the meeting.

SECTION IV: Quorum

Those Elders present and voting at a meeting duly called and noticed shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Every action taken or decision made by a majority of the Elders present shall be the act of the Elders, except as described in Article VII, Sections VIII and IX. A meeting at which a quorum is initially present may continue to transact business, notwithstanding the withdrawal of Elders.

SECTION V: Waiver of Notice

The transactions of any meeting of the Elders, however called and noticed or wherever held, shall be as valid as though taken at a meeting duly held after regular call and notice, if a quorum is present, and either before or after the meeting, each of the Elders not present signs a written waiver of notice, a consent to holding the meeting, or approves the minutes. The waiver of notice or consent must specify the purpose of the meeting. All waivers, consents,

and approvals shall be filed with the corporate records or made a part of the minutes of the meeting. Notice of a meeting need not be given to any Elder who attends the meeting without protesting before or at its commencement about the lack of notice.

SECTION VI: Action Without Meeting

Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Elders may be taken without a meeting, if all of the Elders, individually, or collectively, consent in writing to the action. Such action by written consent shall have the same force and effect as the unanimous vote of the Elders. Such written consent or consents shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Elders.

ARTICLE IX OFFICERS

SECTION I: Officers

The officers of the Church shall be Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. The office of Vice-Chairman may be left vacant in the event that only three (3) Elders are currently serving.

Section II: Selection of Officers

The Officers shall be chosen by the Elders, and each shall serve at the pleasure of the Elders, subject to the rights, if any, of an officer under any contract of employment.

ARTICLE X LEADERSHIP TEAM

SECTION I: Number and Term

The Elders shall, from time to time, designate the authorized number of Leadership Team Members of the Church. The Leadership Team members shall be elected by the Elders and will serve at the pleasure of the Elders.

SECTION II: Powers

The Leadership Team shall have the following powers and duties:

1. To provide financial counsel to the Elders. Such counsel shall be provided at the discretion of the Elders.

2. To determine the compensation of the licensed and/or ordained pastors of the Church.
3. To conduct such other duties and activities as the Elders may designate from time to time.

ARTICLE XI

RECORDS AND REPORTS

The Church shall maintain the following records and reports:

1. Adequate and correct books and records of accounts (financial records); and
2. Written minutes of the proceedings of Elders meetings; appointed committees and other task forces as deemed necessary by the Officers.
3. A record of the partners of the Church, setting forth the partner's names and addresses; and contribution statements for contributors.

ARTICLE XII

FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Church shall be January 1 through December 31.

ARTICLE XIII

INDEMNIFICATION

The Elders shall have and may exercise the power to indemnify any director, officer, employee, fiduciary, or agent of former director, officer, employee, fiduciary, or agent of the Corporation, and the Personal Representatives of all such persons, against expenses actually and necessarily incurred in connection with the defense of any suit, action or proceeding, in which such person is made a party by reason of being or having been such director, officer, employee, fiduciary, or agent. 'Expenses actually and necessarily incurred' shall be deemed to include costs to such person of reasonable settlement made with the consent of the Corporation. Such indemnification, if approved by the Elders, shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which such person may be entitled, under these Bylaws, by agreement, by decision of the Elders, or otherwise. The extent of the Corporation's power to indemnify the above enumerated persons shall be defined by Section 7-22-101.5 of the Colorado Revised Statutes which incorporates by reference Sections 7-109-101 to 9-109-110 and Section 7-108-402.2 of the Colorado Revised Statutes.

ARTICLE XIV

AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

These Bylaws or any provision of them may be altered, amended, or repealed, and new Bylaws may be adopted by vote of two-thirds of the partner's present at any special or regular partnership meeting at which a quorum is present.

ARTICLE XV

STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY

God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen 1:26-27).

Marriage is defined only as the exclusive, holy union of one man and one woman as described in Scripture (Gen 2:18-25). God intends intimate sexual activity to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Cor 7:2-4, Heb 13:4). Sexual immorality (including, but not limited to: adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is a sin (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10).

By His mercy through Jesus, God redeems and restores all who confess and repent of their sin (Rom 10:9; Acts 3:19-21). God's grace and mercy is an example for us -- we must give compassion, kindness, respect, and love to everyone (Mark 12:28-31). Hateful and harassing behavior directed at any individual is not in accord with Scripture nor the mission of Pinecrest.

In order to preserve the integrity and mission of Pinecrest as part of the body of Christ, the leadership of Pinecrest (elder board, pastors, staff, and volunteers) shall agree to and abide by this statement on marriage, gender, and sexuality (Phil 2:14-16).

Approved and revised, January 2016.

PINECREST COMMUNITY CHURCH
7165 North Delbert Road • Parker, CO 80138
720-851-2300
www.pinecrestonline.org