

# Heaton Christian Church

## By-Laws

(Board Approved February 3, 2015)  
(Congregation Approved May 24, 2015)

The Apostle Paul declares in 1 Corinthians 14:40, "But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way." Therefore, the Elders and Church Board of the Heaton Christian Church feel that in conducting the business of the church certain rules should be followed thereby eliminating the possibility of disputes, etc. With that in mind, the Elders and Church Board recommend the following to the congregation.

### **Article I - The Church**

#### **Section 1.01 Identity and Belief**

The Heaton Christian Church organized as an independent and autonomous (self-governing) congregation of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ; holds as its sole authority and rule of faith and practice the divinely inspired Word of God found in the 27 books of the New Testament and the 39 books of the Old Testament. We believe and strictly adhere to scripture on matters such as, but not limited to, marriage as defined in scripture between one man and one woman. (Genesis 2:24, Leviticus 18:22, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

#### **Section 1.02 Purpose**

The purpose of this church shall be as revealed in the New Testament: to win people to faith in and obedience to Jesus Christ and to commit them actively to the church, to help them grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ that increasingly they may know and do His will. The Heaton Christian Church is free from all denominational organizations and creeds. The church shall have no creed or Articles of Faith other than the Bible; the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper shall be observed, the former by immersion only, and the latter each Lord's Day. This church shall be independent of and shall not be financially or ecclesiastically subservient to any other religious society, denominational organization, or interdenominational council, at whatever level, by whatever names known.

### **Article II - Membership**

#### **Section 2.01 Membership**

The membership of Heaton Christian Church shall consist of immersed believers in Jesus Christ. Any person who believes in Jesus Christ as Lord (Acts 16:31), repents of their sins (Acts 2:38) confesses Him as Lord (Romans 10:9-10), and is immersed into Christ (Romans 6:4) will be welcomed into membership at Heaton Christian Church. Immersed believers in Jesus Christ who wish to place their membership with this congregation may do so by affirming, as Peter did in Matthew 16:16, that "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

### **Article III - Church Board**

#### **Section 3.01**

This congregation recognizes that the Scriptural Government of the Church resides in a body of scripturally qualified and scripturally ordained Elders. This body of Elders is enjoined to head the wishes of the congregation in its decisions insofar as they are consistent with the teaching of all the commands of The Lord Jesus Christ. The Elders shall have the final decision in the spiritual matter of the Church.

#### **Section 3.02**

This congregation recognizes the Scriptural authority for the office of Deacons who are scripturally qualified and scripturally ordained who shall be assistants to the Elders. The qualifications of said office are set forth in the Holy Bible.

#### **Section 3.03**

The term of office of Elders and Deacons shall be for life, pursuant to Section 3.04 as set forth below. Otherwise, the Elder or Deacon may request, due to age or health, and on his own cognizance, to be relieved and replaced.

#### **Section 3.04**

If any Elder or Deacon ceases to conduct himself according to the Scriptural precepts; he may be removed from office by the Elders.

#### **Section 3.05**

Nominations for the offices for Elder and Deacon may be made by any member at any time. The Elders will determine the qualifications of those nominated, elections will be publicly announced to the congregation.

#### **Section 3.06**

The Senior Minister is a member of the Church Board of Elders

### **Article IV - Qualifications of Elders and Deacons**

#### **Section 4.01 - Elders**

The Elders shall be chosen from among men of good standing, according to the qualifications stated in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-4. They shall promote the growth and welfare of the church, give spiritual oversight to the members of the Church.

#### **Section 4.02 - Deacons**

The Deacons shall be chosen from among men of good standing, according to the qualifications stated in 1 Timothy 3:8-18 and Acts 6:1-7. They shall cooperate with the Elders in promoting the growth and welfare of the Church.

### **Article V - Paid and Unpaid Personnel**

#### **Section 5.01**

All paid and unpaid staff/volunteers may be subject to approval or dismissal by the Elders.

## **Article VI - Church Property/Building Use**

### **Section 6.01**

The church building and/or property shall be used by church members or groups provided the activity follows the guidelines outlined in the facility usage policy.

## **Article VII - Amendments**

### **Section 7.01**

Article I, Section 1.01 of the By-Laws shall not hereafter be amended, altered, or rescinded, in whole or in any part thereof, without the unanimous (100%) vote of the present and voting members of the church, which vote shall be taken at a meeting called by the church board for that sole purpose, of which meeting written notice shall be given to each member of the church at least once a week for three weeks prior to said meeting. The voting at the meeting shall be by written ballot.

### **Section 7.02**

With the exception of Article I, Section 1.01, these By-Laws may be amended at any regular or called meeting of the Church Board by 2/3 vote of the members present and voting on the amendments.