

BY-LAWS
of
THE SNELLVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, INC.
Snellville, Georgia
(As amended by the congregation 12/5/99)
Article I

NAME AND LOCATION

- Section a)** The name of the corporation shall be THE SNELLVILLE CHURCH, INC. (hereinafter referred to as “The Church”).
- Section b)** The principal office of The Church shall be located at 2485 Scenic Highway South, Snellville Georgia 30078.

Article II

NON-AFFILIATION AND AUTHORITY

- Section a)** The Church is independent of any and all other churches which carry the same or similar name that might be registered in this State or at Washington, D.C. The Church claims the right of free government and recognizes no outside religious authority or control save that of Jesus Christ.
- Section b)** The Church recognizes the Bible as the Word of God and the New Testament as its only authority in matters pertaining to The Church.

Article III

PURPOSE AND FUNCTION

- Section a)** The Church is a non-profit corporation and shall not be organized for pecuniary gain.
- Section b)** The purposes for which The Church is formed and for which it shall exist are exclusively religious within the meaning of the United States Internal Revenue Code as now in force or as hereafter amended.
- Section c)** The principal and income of all assets received by The Church shall be administered by the Board of Elders as hereinafter defined. The Board of Elders may direct such other person or persons to administer the funds of The Church.
- Section d)** The Church may engage in any activity(ies) that are lawful and consistent with these by-laws for non-profit corporations organized under the Georgia Non-Profit Corporation Law. The Church will not carry on any other activity not permitted to be carried on by
- (i) a corporation exempt from Federal income Tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code as amended,
 - (ii) or by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 270 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code as amended (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).
- Section e)** The purpose of The Church is to engage in ministry, relating the gospel of Christ to the world by evangelism and other means consistent with the gospel and developing spiritual maturity among its people, thus glorifying God.
- Section f)** The function of the Church is to conduct corporate services of worship (praise and adoration), prayer, and celebration of the Lord's Supper, to encourage and afford opportunity for interaction regarding our Faith, and to help its members make use of the gifts of the Holy Spirit given by God for ministry and evangelism. In conjunction with the foregoing The Church shall have authority to:
- (i) Receive tithes and offerings;
 - (ii) Furnish a minister and/or ministers and other staff personnel deemed appropriate by the Elders;
 - (iii) Buy, sell, own, rent, lease, mortgage or encumber real or personal property of any and every kind (not inconsistent with these by-laws and the purposes for which it is formed);
 - (iv) To furnish a place of worship;
 - (v) To support the missions of the Christian Church; and
 - (vi) To carry on any and all other business proper, incidental and conducive to the intents, purposes, and functions of The Church.

Article IV

MEMBERSHIP AND CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

- Section a)** Membership shall consist of those who have responded to God by faith. Faith is the acceptance of Biblical testimony as true to the extent that it moves one to trust in God and manifest Jesus as Lord of one's life. This assumes confession of Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God incarnate; repentance, which is a change of mind and direction away from sin and toward God; baptism, which is the immersion into water of the penitent believer in obedience to Christ and;
- Section b)** Such a person may become a member of The Church upon their statement that they have complied with the terms of Section (a) of this Article and have expressed a desire to become a member of Snellville Christian Church before its congregation.
- Section c)** Voting privileges shall be accorded to all members. (Exception: To vote on Church financial matters, the members so voting must be 18 years of age or older.) Questionable qualifications shall be settled by the Elders present at the meeting.
- Section d)** Special meetings or the congregation may be called by the Board of Elders, or in writing to the Elders of 50 members entitled to vote at such meeting (see Section (c) hereof) with notice given in accordance with Section (f) of this Article set out hereinafter.
- Section e)** The place of either special or regular congregational meetings shall be at 2485 Scenic Highway South, Snellville, Georgia 30078 or at such other place as may be designated by the Board of Elders.
- Section f)** All special and regular congregational meetings and the subject(s) and/or purposes(s) of the meeting(s) will be announced on two (2) consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting. This notice of meetings shall include both regular and special meetings. If The Church's ability to worship is threatened, i.e. because of damage to or loss of a building, The Board of Elders has the right to call for a special meeting without notice for the purpose of establishing a temporary (up to 30 days) place of worship.
- Section g)** For purposes of calculating the percentage of those voting in favor of an issue will be calculated as follows:
- (i) The total number of yes votes will be added to the total number of no votes.
 - (ii) Then the total number of yes votes from g(1) will be divided by the total number of votes from g(1)
 - (iii) If the resulting raw percentage (not rounded) is equal to or greater than the stated percentage required, the issue in question will be considered to have passed.
 - (iv) If the resulting raw percentage (not rounded) is less than the stated percentage required the issue in question will be considered to have failed.
 - (v) For purposes of these calculations, abstentions will not be figured into the total number of votes for any issue.
- Section h)** There shall be two regular meetings each year. One meeting will be held in June and one in December.
- Section i)** Absentee ballots may be allowed, at the discretion of the Board of Elders. To be valid, ballots must be received by an Elder prior to the vote in question.

Article V

BOARD OF ELDERS

- Section a)** The business and affairs of The Church shall be managed by its Board of Elders. The Elder shall in all cases act as a Board and may adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of their meetings and the management of The Church, as they may deem proper, not inconsistent with these by-laws and the applicable Scriptures. The Board of Elders shall seek congregational approval of the following matters:
- (i) The calling or releasing of a minister and/or ministers (exception: See Article VII, Section (h));
 - (ii) Buying, selling, owning, renting, leasing, mortgaging or encumbering real or personal property owned by The Church;
 - (iii) Any single non-budgeted expenditure over twenty-five hundred dollars [\$2,500.00] or 1% of the annual budget, whichever is greater;
 - (iv) Loaning of Church funds;
 - (v) Any major policy changes.
- Section b)** The number of Elders of The Church shall be no less than three (3). In the event of a lack a plurality of Elders (3 or more), the remaining Elders, if any, and the Deacons shall compose the official board until such time as a plurality of Elders is present and the Elders become the governing Board of Elders. Each Elder shall hold office for a term of three (3) years.

- Section c)** The Church membership, in accordance with Article IV, Sections (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g) of these by-laws, shall elect Elders, and upon his desiring the office of Elder, said Elder or Elders shall be considered as having been elected by eighty per cent (80%) approval of those voting in said election after said Elder or Elders shall have first been nominated by a member of The Church eligible to vote and after such nomination or nominations shall have been approved by the Board of Elders.
- Section d)** The qualifications of this office are to be patterned after those listed in the New Testament in such passages as I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-8 and Acts 6:2-3,20-28.
- Section e)** All men nominated to the office of Elder must have been members of the Snellville Christian Church according to Article IV Sections (a) and (b), for at least three (3) years.
- Section f)** A regular meeting of the Elders may be held without prior notice.
- Section g)** The act of a majority of the Elders present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Elders. Two thirds (2/3) of the Elders shall constitute a quorum.
- Section h)** Elders will be presented for nomination, election and ordination whenever they are recognized as capable, and desire to serve as overseers (elders).
- Section i)** The Elders shall be the overseers and shepherds of The Church in all matters pertaining to The Church. (Acts 20:28 and I Peter 5:1-3.)
- Section j)** Any Elder may be removed from his ministry by the remaining Elders if he does not fulfill the scriptural qualifications and responsibilities of his ministry.
- Section k)** The Elders may authorize any member, elder, deacon, or trustees to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of The Church, and such authority may be general or to specific instances. Said authorization shall be made in writing.
- Section l)** All checks, drafts or other orders for the payment of money, notes, or other evidence of indebtedness issued in the name or The Church, shall be signed by two such officers or agents of The Church and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by the Board of Elders.
- Section m)** All funds of The Church not otherwise employed shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of The Church in such bank, trust companies or other depositories as the Board of Elders may select.
- Section n)** All funds contributed to the church for any purpose become the property of The Church and shall be employed for any authorized purpose as The Board of Elders may see fit.
- Section o)** The Elders shall elect a chairman to preside over The Board of Elders at regular and special congregational meetings.

Article VI

DEACONS

- Section a)** The Church membership, in accordance with Article IV, Sections (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g) of these by-laws, shall elect Deacons, and upon his desiring the office of Deacon, said Deacon Or Deacons shall be considered as having been elected by eighty percent (80%) of those present and voting in favor of said election after said Deacon or Deacons shall have first been nominated by a member of The Church eligible to vote and after such nomination or nominations shall have been approved by the Board of Elders.
- Section b)** The Deacons shall serve a two-fold function:
- (i) They shall bear responsibility for their appointed ministry(ies) under the oversight of the Elders;
 - (ii) They shall serve as an advisory group to and under the direction of the Elders.
- Section c)** The qualifications of this office are to be patterned after those listed in the New Testament in such passages as I Timothy 3:8-12 and Acts 6:2-8, 20-28.
- Section d)** Deacons will serve for a one (1) year term. A Deacon maybe re-elected. If a Deacon does not fulfill the responsibilities of his ministry, he shall be removed by a vote of the Elders.
- Section e)** The Deacon must be a member for one year in accordance with Article IV, Sections (a) and (b) of these by-laws.
- Section f)** The Deacons shall elect a Chairman who in turn will meet at the regular Elders meeting and advise the Elders of matters pertaining to assigned ministry areas for which the Deacons are responsible.
- Section g)** The act of a majority of the Deacons present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Deacons. Two thirds (2/3) of the Deacons shall constitute a quorum.

Article VII

PAID MINISTER(S)

- Section a)** A Selection Committee, appointed by the Elders shall recommend a candidate to the Board of Elders by a one hundred per cent (100%) approval of said committee, and if said candidate is endorsed by the Elders by one hundred per cent (100%) approval, then he shall be voted upon by the congregation at a regular or special meeting in accordance with Article IV, Sections (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g) hereof. He must be approved by an eighty per cent (80%) majority of those voting.
- Section b)** Only one (1) candidate for any ministry shall be considered by the congregation at one time. Each candidate for ministry shall be considered by the congregation before another is considered.
- Section c)** Terms of the agreement between the prospective minister and/or ministers and The Church shall be worked out between said minister and/or ministers and the Elders and be submitted to the congregation for approval or disapproval at the time the candidate is voted upon.
- Section d)** The minister(s) shall remain until he or the membership (See Section (c) and (d), Article IV) of The Church desire to terminate his ministry with Snellville Christian Church.
- Section e)** If the minister(s) or The Church desires to terminate said ministry, each may do so by notifying the other upon sixty (60) days written notice of his or its intention to do so.
- Section f)** The membership shall have the right to call a special meeting to dismiss the Minister(s). Dismissal must come by an eighty percent (80%) majority of those voting, in accordance with Article IV, Section (c) and (d).
- Section g)** The Elders must act according to the wishes of the congregation in accordance with Section (f) hereinabove.
- Section h)** If at any time the minister(s) denies the Bible, or the contents thereof, as the Divine Word of God, the Elders shall dismiss the minister(s) immediately, and upon said minister(s) denying the Bible, or the contents thereof, as the Divine Word of God, he thereby waives the sixty (60) day provision as set out in Section (e) of this Article.
- Section i)** The minister(s) is subject to the guidance and direction of the Elders.
- Section j)** The minister must strive to be exemplary in character and in dedication to Jesus Christ and His teachings.
- Section k)** The minister must be committed to a theology and ministry which regards The Church as the Body of Christ, and is composed of those individuals who make Jesus Lord of their life in obedient response to the Gospel of Christ.
- Section l)** The minister(s) must be free and independent of any organization that might attempt to control or to dictate actions and policy to the local congregation.
- Section m)** The preaching minister shall have the responsibility for supervision of all members of the Church staff under the direction of the Elders.
- Section n)** The preaching minister shall be a non-voting member of the Board of Elders
- Section o)** The preaching minister shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, at his discretion.
- Section p)** The specific ministries and responsibilities of the minister(s) shall be stated in the ministers agreement (See Section (c)) and subject to redirection with unanimous approval of the Elders.

Article VIII

TRUSTEES

- Section a)** The trustees shall consist of three (3) in number, appointed by the Elders for a term of three (3) years. A trustee may be reappointed.
- Section b)** The trustees shall be members according to Article IV, Sections (a) and (b).
- Section c)** The trustees shall act as the legal agents or The Church in all business matters, under the direction of the Elders. They are to hold the legal title to all Church property and handle all business transactions related thereto.
- Section d)** Two (2) trustees shall constitute a quorum after the meeting has been announced to all three (3).
- Section e)** The trustees must act when instructed by a majority vote of the Elders in all instances except the sale and transfer of Church property, which must be ratified by a eighty percent (80%) majority of the members voting, according to Article IV, Sections (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g) of these by-laws.
- Section f)** If at any time a trustee does not fulfill his duties he maybe removed by a majority vote of the Elders.

Article IX

INDEMNIFICATION

- Section a)** The Church shall indemnify any and all persons who may serve or who have served at any time as elder, deacon, trustee or any other person who is a member of The Church, their respective heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, against any and all expense, including amounts paid upon judgments, counsel fees, and amounts paid in settlement (before or after suit is concerned), actually and necessarily incurred by such persons in connection with the defense or settlement of any claim, action, suit, or proceedings in which they, or any of them, are made parties, or a party or which may be asserted against them or any of them, by reason of being or having been an elder, trustee or member of The Church, except in relation to matters as to which any such elder, deacon, officer, member or trustee a former elder, deacon, officer, member or trustee shall be adjudged in any action, suit or proceedings to be liable for his own negligence and conduct in the performance or his duty, provided that in the event of a settlement the indemnification herein shall apply only when the Board of Elders approves such settlement and reimbursement as being for the best interest of The Church.
- Section b)** The foregoing right of indemnification shall be in addition to and not exclusive of all other rights to which such elder, deacon, officer or trustee may be entitled.

Article X

INSPECTION OF CHURCH RECORDS

- Section a)** The membership register, the books of account and minutes of proceedings of the Board of Elders and any and all committees shall be open to inspection upon the written demand of any member to his or her interests as a member and shall be exhibited at any time when required by the demand of a majority of the Board of Elders at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Elders. Such inspection shall include the right to make copies. All demands for inspection shall be made in writing, addressed to the Chairman of the Board of Elders.

Article XI

CESSATION ABANDONMENT OR DISSOLUTION

- Section a)** The property of The Church is irrevocably dedicated to religious purposes and upon liquidation, dissolution or abandonment of The Church, after providing for the debts and obligations thereof, the remaining assets will not inure to the benefit of any person, but will be distributed to another nonprofit Christian institution of like kind, and which has established its tax exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code as amended or as the Board of Elders shall determine.

Article XII

AMENDMENTS

- Section a)** These by-laws may be amended by the congregation in accordance with Article IV, Sections (c),(d), (e), (f) and (g) upon approval of eighty percent (80%) of those members voting.