

Revised June, 2012
THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
CHERRY LOG CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
CHERRY LOG, GEORGIA

PREAMBLE

As members of the Christian Church
 We confess that Jesus is the Christ,
 the Son of the living God,
 and proclaim him Lord and Savior of the world.
In Christ's name and by his grace
 we accept our mission of witness
 and service to all people.
We rejoice in God,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 and in God's covenant of love
 which binds us to God and to one another.
Through baptism into Christ
 we enter into newness of life
 and are made one with the whole people of God.
In the communion of the Holy Spirit
 we are joined together in discipleship
 and in obedience to Christ.
At the Table of the Lord
 we celebrate with thanksgiving
 the saving acts and presence of Christ.
Within the universal church
 we receive the gift of ministry
 and the light of scripture.
In the bonds of Christian faith
 we yield ourselves to God
 that we may serve the One
 whose kingdom has no end.
Blessing, glory, and honor
 be to God forever. Amen.¹

1 Preamble taken from "The Design for Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)"

We, the members of the Cherry Log Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Cherry Log, Georgia, in faithful response to the will and purposes of God as revealed through Jesus Christ and God's continuing revelation in the world, do hereby adopt this Constitution.

ARTICLE I

Name and Affiliation

The name of this congregation will be Cherry Log Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)(referred to herein as "CLCC"), organized to be a nonprofit corporation under the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code, affiliated with and an integral part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

ARTICLE II

Purpose

CLCC is an open community of Christians where all people are welcome without prejudice to hear God's Word, the Good News of Jesus Christ; where they may respond to that Word in faith and faithfulness; where their faith may be nurtured through worship, study and fellowship; and where they may witness in faithfulness through service in the Congregation, the local community, and the world.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Membership of this Congregation, as a part of the whole family of God on earth, will consist of the following:

- those who are now members of the Congregation;
- those who will unite with the Congregation by confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, giving expression of their faith through baptism and commitment to Him; and
- those who unite by transfer of membership, thereby reaffirming their faith and commitment to Christ.

Some members may wish to have an associate relationship to the Congregation because of longstanding membership in another congregation or other church body, or because they are part-time residents in the community. In the life and leadership of the Congregation, no distinction is made in types of membership. No member will be removed from membership except on the basis of specific information indicating that the individual is deceased or requests removal of membership.

ARTICLE IV

THE CONGREGATION

Rights, Privileges, and Responsibilities

The Congregation will demonstrate its mutual concern for the nurture, mission, and witness of the whole Church, and, among other responsibilities, it will:

- proclaim the gospel;
- determine its faithfulness to the Gospel by creating and maintaining an inclusive environment for membership;
- administer baptism and the Lord's Supper;
- provide for the spiritual nurture of its members;
- grow in understanding that the Church is a universal fellowship;
- transcend all barriers within the human family such as race, gender and culture;
- manage its affairs under the Lordship of Jesus Christ;
- organize and carry out the mission and witness of the Congregation;
- be faithful in Christian stewardship, striving to share proportionately in providing resources for the total life, work and witness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ);
- establish its financial policies and budgets;
- own, control and encumber its property;
- call its minister(s);
- participate, through voting representatives, in regional and general assemblies of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); and
- seek to realize the oneness of the church of Jesus Christ through cooperation with other churches in the community with present and emerging ecumenical structures.

The Congregation will exercise and enjoy all other rights, privileges and responsibilities requisite or appropriate to carrying out its purpose.

ARTICLE V

Organizational Structure

Section A. Officers

The Congregation will elect from its members a Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer. These officers will be elected at an Annual Meeting of the Congregation and will serve as Officers of the Congregation and the Board as set forth in the Bylaws. These Officers, in consultation with the Minister(s) and Elders, should seek to make membership on the Board and any working group, team or committee of the church a gracious and growing experience for all participants. While Robert's Rules of Order will govern any matters requiring votes and discussion, all officers and presiding individuals

should strive for consensus, and guide all discussions in following Christ's example of charity and fairness.

Section B. Board

The Congregation will have a Board which will be responsible for overseeing the operation of the church's program to ensure that it fulfills the principles and vision of the Congregation. The Board will propose the Church's program and budget, to be acted upon by the Congregation at annual or called meetings. The Board will be responsible to the Congregation and have authority to act on behalf of the Congregation when it is not in a Congregational meeting, according to such guidelines as set forth in the Bylaws. The Board will be responsible for all financial and legal activity of the church, and will carry out such other responsibilities as may be defined in the Bylaws.

The Board will be composed of members as follows, for terms of office set forth in the Bylaws:

1. Moderator
2. Vice-Moderator
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. Chair of Elders
6. Two Elders
7. Chair of Deacons
8. Chair of Trustees
9. Chairs of Ministry Councils
10. Four members at large, elected from the Congregation
11. Senior Minister, ex officio, without vote

Section C. Ministry Councils

The church will have three Ministry Councils, including a Resource Council, Discipling Council, and Outreach Council responsible for the functions of resourcing/administration, discipling, and missions/outreach, as more fully set forth in the Bylaws. The Board and other Councils, throughout all of their work, will be guided by the principles expressed in the Preamble to this Constitution.

Section D. Elders and Deacons

This Congregation will have Elders, Deacons, and Youth Deacons who are responsible for the spiritual life and development of the Congregation, elected from its membership. Their election, qualifications, and responsibilities will be as set forth in the Bylaws.

Section E. Trustees

The Congregation shall have three Trustees, who, as legal representatives of the Congregation, will hold, buy or sell real or intangible properties and other capital assets of the

Congregation *except those entrusted to a Legacy (or Permanent Funds) Committee*. The Trustees are directly accountable to and are directed by the Congregation, through the Church Board. The qualifications, terms of office and duties of the Trustees shall be as set forth in the Bylaws.

Section F. Committees

The Congregation, through the Board, may establish Councils, Committees, and/or Task Groups necessary for the conduct of the program and work of the Congregation, as more fully set forth in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI

Congregational Meetings

A. Weekly Worship

The Congregation will gather weekly to worship the living God in song, in prayer, in the preaching and teaching of God's Word and in the communion of the Lord's Supper. Because worship is one means by which the Congregation reaches out to the community with the Gospel, the worship services of the Congregation will be open to any and all people who wish to participate. The service of the Lord's Supper will always be open to all.

B. Annual Meetings

The Congregation will hold a business meeting in May of each year, at a time and place set by the Board, to elect church leaders, who will take office in July. The Congregation will also hold a business meeting each November to approve the budget for the following fiscal year, which begins on January 1. Notice of all stated or special Congregational meetings will be announced at a regular Sunday morning worship service of the Congregation at least one week in advance of the meeting and by means of the church newsletter or a written notice sent through the mail and postmarked at least ten days before the meeting. The purpose, date, time, and place of meeting will be indicated in each notice.

C. Conduct

The Congregation, whether it is gathered in worship, in fellowship or to discuss and decide on matters affecting it, is part of the universal body of Christ and will conduct itself accordingly, with the example of Christ's love, charity and fairness as the guiding principle for all discussions. The Moderator carries primary responsibility for the conduct and tone of the meeting. All such matters that require action by the Congregation will follow Robert's Rules of Order.

D. Participating Membership, Quorum and Majority

Participating membership, for the purpose of establishing a quorum at a business meeting, will be defined as those members who are active and participating in the life of the Church, using the definition and guidelines of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The numerical designation of the membership for determining a quorum will be set by the Minister, the Church Treasurer, the Secretary, and Moderator once each year, announced to the Church Board and published in the next succeeding issue of the Cherrylogue.

Except, as specified below, Congregational meetings will require a quorum of one-third of the participating membership to be present and voting. A simple majority of the members present and voting will decide any matters before the Congregation.

- To implement or amend this Constitution will require a quorum of one-half of the participating membership to be present and voting.
- To call a Minister, to terminate the services of a Minister, to place the Congregation in debt will require a quorum of one-half of the participating membership to be present and voting.
- To disassociate the Congregation from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada will require a quorum of nine-tenths of the participating membership to be present and voting.

E. Absentee Voting

Because of the geographical distribution of this Congregation, absentee ballots will be allowed on all major Congregational votes. "Present and voting" allows for official numbered ballot voting. Participating members not able to attend Congregational Meetings should request a numbered ballot from the Church Office, to be returned to the church office prior to any meeting.