

(6/11/2023)

**THE CONSTITUTION OF
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

(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) (sometimes 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

We honor the words of our founding pastor, Dr. Fred Craddock: "We reject only those who Jesus rejected," so all are welcome. In accordance with the CLCC Welcoming Statement (copy attached as Exhibit "A") anyone may be a member of Cherry Log Christian Church (DOC) and participate in all aspects of this community of faith.

ARTICLE IV

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 to 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).
- 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 carry out its purposes.

ARTICLE V

Organizational Structure

Section A. Officers

The Congregation will elect from its members a Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Secretary and Treasurer. These officers will be elected at an Annual Meeting of the Congregation and will serve as Officers of the Congregation and as members of the Board as set forth in the Bylaws. While Roberts 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. Chair of Deacons
7. Chair of Trustee Council
8. Chair of Resource Council

9. Chair of Outreach Council
10. Chair of Discipling Council
11. Senior Minister

Section C. Councils

The Church shall have four councils, including a Resource Council, Discipling Council, Outreach Council, and Trustee Council who will be responsible for the functions of resource/administration, discipling, missions/outreach and church property as more fully set forth in the Bylaws. The Board and the Councils, throughout all of their work, will be guided by the principles expressed in Article IV of this Constitution.

Section D. Elders and Deacons

The Congregation will have Elders and 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, personal, or intangible properties and other capital assets of the Congregation except those entrusted to a Legacy (or Permanent Funds) Committee. The Trustees are directed 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 meeting 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. Membership Roll and Quorum.

1. In the first calendar quarter of each year the Senior Minister and the Officers will collectively review the membership roll to determine the then current number of active members, which shall be reported to the Board and published in the Cherrylogue. The number of Active Members thus determined shall be used for determining quorum requirement during the calendar year.
2. Except as specified below, Congregational meetings will require a quorum of one-third of Active Members and a simple majority of members voting will decide any matters before the Congregation.

Exceptions:

- To implement or amend this Constitution will require a quorum of one-half of the Active Members;
- To call a Minister, to terminate the services of a Minister, the place the Congregation in debt will require a quorum of one - half of the Active Members.

- 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 Active Members.
3. Absentee voting, under guidelines to be established from time to time by the Board is permitted and absentee ballots shall be counted for purposes meeting quorum requirements.

THIS CONSTITUTION WAS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF CHERRY LOG CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) AT A PROPERLY CALLED, NOTICED AND CONDUCTED BOARD MEETING ON THE _____ DAY OF _____, 2023.

MODERATOR

SECRETARY

THIS CONSTITUTION WAS APPROVED BY THE CONGREGATION OF CHERRY LOG CHRISTIAN CHURCH AT A PROPERLY CALLED, NOTICED AND CONDUCTED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON THE _____ DAY OF _____ 2023.

CHAIR OF ELDERS

CHAIR OF DEACONS