

# SHORELINE COMMUNITY CHURCH

1251 Clark Street, North Bend, Oregon 97459

## Organizational Constitution

**Established :** November 12, 2006

**Article I NAME:** The organization shall be known as Shoreline Community Church and is formed under the laws of the United States of America and the State of Oregon. As such, Shoreline Community Church is an autonomous, *non-denominational*, tax exempt church.

**Article II PURPOSE:** The purpose of Shoreline Community Church, in harmony with the Holy Scriptures, is to glorify God through the transforming of lives into Christ-likeness. This is accomplished by the Holy Spirit as we lovingly function in church body life: worshipping God, loving the people, reaching the lost, teaching God's Word and discipling His people to the fullness of Christian maturity.

**Article III MEMBERSHIP:** The membership of Shoreline Community Church shall consist of believers in Jesus Christ who have followed the Lord in water baptism (Matt. 28:18-20). Any person (old enough and mature enough to understand) may become a member of the Church: upon confession of their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; by giving assent to the provisions of this constitution; and by signing the Shoreline Community Church membership covenant. Acceptance and discipline of members shall be vested in the Board of Elders, following the principles set forth in the Holy Scriptures. For voting and affirmation purposes, active members shall be considered those members who have attended church regularly for at least three months prior to any vote or affirmation requested.

**Article IV OFFICIAL BOARD:** Shoreline Community Church is an elder led Christian Church. The Official Board of Trustees for Shoreline Community Church shall be the Board of Elders. A Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, or a Secretary/Treasurer shall be selected from the Board. Additional members may be added as necessary to meet the needs of Shoreline Community Church. These offices, along with all additional members, shall constitute the Official Board. The Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of the Board with voting privileges. The Board shall strive to meet at least once per month.

### **Article V DUTIES (Officers of the Church):**

**The Chairman** shall preside over all Board of Elder meetings and any other Church business meetings of Shoreline Community Church.

**The Vice-Chairman** shall serve in the absence of the Chairman

**The Secretary** shall keep a membership list and record the minutes of meetings. The Secretary will also attend to general correspondence.

**The Treasurer** shall receive and disperse the funds of Shoreline Community Church upon its order and perform such other duties as are delegated upon this office. He shall make an annual report to the membership of SCC and the books shall be audited or reviewed at least once a year as designated by the Board of Elders.”

## **The Pastor-Teacher**

### **Section 1. Election**

The Pastor-Teacher shall be selected by the Board of Elders and affirmed by the members of the congregation at its annual or a specially called Church business meeting. The calling of a Pastor-Teacher will require at least an 80% affirmation vote by the congregation. He shall remain in office for an indefinite period of time subject to the following reservations: The Board of Elders reserves the right to dismiss the Pastor-Teacher upon giving him one month’s written notice of its intent for dismissal. The Pastor-Teacher shall give one month’s written notice of his intent to resign. The one month notice is subject to change should the Board of Elders and Pastor-Teacher mutually agree to a lesser time.

### **Section 2. Duties**

The Pastor-Teacher shall be an ex officio member of all boards and committees, and he shall be accountable to the Board of Elders. The Pastor-Teacher shall be responsible for the arrangement and conducting of all public and regular services for Shoreline Community Church and is (along with the Board of Elders) responsible for the general oversight and spiritual welfare of the church as a whole. In the absence of the Pastor-Teacher, the Board of Elders shall be responsible for the arrangement of all public and regular services at Shoreline Community Church.

## **Article VI THE SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF ELDERS AND DEACONS**

The selection of elder and deacon candidates is threefold: The candidate must be a male who meets the biblical qualifications to serve in the capacity of elder or deacon (see Article I of the Church Bylaws ~ “Church Governance Statement”) and feels the call to serve as such. The Board of Elders examines the candidate and agrees to appoint the individual as an elder or deacon candidate. Thirdly, the candidate is presented at the annual Church business meeting or a specially called business meeting for an affirmation vote by the Church members.

## **Article VII AFFIRMATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS:**

All elders and deacons shall be subject to a vote of affirmation by the Church members annually. The affirmation process will be done by closed ballots at the annual business meeting or a specially called business meeting. Candidates must receive at least 80% approval from the membership present to be affirmed as an elder or deacon. Should a candidate fail to make the 80% affirmation, the Board of Elders will reconsider the candidate. There is no term limit so long as the elders and deacons receive an “annual” 80% affirmation vote by Church members present at the annual Church business meeting.

## **Article VIII REMOVAL OF ELDERS AND DEACONS FROM OFFICE**

Current Board members may notify the Board of Elders in writing at any time of their desire to resign and the congregation will be notified accordingly. Elders and deacons may also be removed from office by not receiving at least 80% congregational affirmation at the annual

business meeting, or by the unanimous request of the Board of Elders (not including the board member in question).

### **Article IX ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING:**

The annual business meeting shall be held each at or near the beginning of the Church fiscal year. A vote of affirmation will be held on all elders and deacons for the upcoming year; a presentation of the proposed Church budget will be shared and an affirmation vote sought. The Pastor, along with representatives from the Elder and Deacon Boards, will share ministry updates with the congregation. Any other pertinent business requiring the attention of the entire Church body will be handled at this time. Special business meetings may be called at any time by the Board of Elders to conduct Church business. The date for these meetings will be set by the board and is to be announced at regular Church services at least two weeks prior to the meeting. The chairman of the Board of Elders will preside over Church business meetings. All Church members are encouraged to attend these meetings. An affirmation vote by a simple majority of the members present will pass regular Church business matters. An 80% affirmation vote will be sought on affirmation for all Church Elders and Deacons as well as on any Constitutional Amendments.

### **Article X AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION:**

Amendments to this constitution may be made at any annual or specially called business meeting of the Church by an 80% affirmation vote of those members present. Voting will be done by closed ballot. Any meeting to vote on a proposed amendment change must be announced at regular Church services at least two weeks in advance. The text of any proposed amendment shall be submitted to the Board of Elders at least thirty days prior to the scheduling of a vote.

### **Article XI DISSOLUTION OF PROPERTY**

If the Church ceases to function and its organization is dissolved, all of the assets (including property) *shall go to a Christian organization (or Christian organizations) holding to a similar statement of faith. Distribution of all assets shall be determined by the sitting Board of Elders at the time of dissolution.*

### **Article XII WEDDING POLICY**

Shoreline Community Church will only perform weddings that have the biblical grounds for marriage as an act of Christian worship. Only the pastoral staff, elders, or individuals approved by the Board of Elders are allowed to perform weddings through the church.

In order for a couple to be married at Shoreline Community Church, the following requirements must be met:

- 1) The Bible permits marriage only between one man and one woman. (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:4-6)
- 2) Both candidates must be Christians. (2 Cor. 6:14)
- 3) The couple must undergo several hours of Christian premarital counseling through Shoreline Community Church.
- 4) If the couple is living together out of wedlock, they must stop living together until the marriage ceremony takes place. (1 Thess. 4:3-5,7)
- 5) If divorced, the candidate (or candidates) must have the biblical grounds for ending their previous marriage. (Matt. 5:31,32; 19:3-12; 1 Cor. 7:10-16, 39)
- 6) The candidates must have an affiliation with Shoreline Community Church.

The Board of Elders will rely upon biblical standards to approve or disapprove of any wedding requested.

**Article XIII USAGE OF FACILITIES**

The facilities of Shoreline Community Church are not for rent. Usage of the church facility will be determined by the Board of Elders as they deem biblically appropriate.