

# SHORELINE COMMUNITY CHURCH

1251 Clark Street, North Bend, Oregon 97459

## Organizational Constitution

Established: November 12, 2006

Revised: February 05, 2023

**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 Free church. Shoreline Community Church is a “Domestic Nonprofit Corporation” (Religious with members) registered with the State of Oregon.”

**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) and who regularly participate in the Lord’s Supper. Any person (old enough and mature enough to understand) may become a member of Shoreline Community 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. A unanimous vote by the Board of Elders is required to receive a candidate into church membership. 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

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 Lead Pastor shall be a member of the Board of Elders with voting privileges. The Board shall strive to meet at least once per week. Elder Board decisions require a 100% unanimous decision.

## 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 preside in the absence of the Chairman.

The Secretary shall keep a membership roster with the assistance of the Church Secretary and shall also record the minutes of meetings. The Secretary will attend to general correspondence for the board.

The Treasurer shall be responsible for overseeing the receipt and disbursements of the funds of Shoreline Community Church as directed by the Board of Elders. The Treasurer, or his representative, shall make a report to the membership of Shoreline Community Church at the Annual Church Business Meeting. It is the duty of the Treasurer to arrange for an annual audit (or review) of our church books and financial practices on behalf of the elders.

The Lead Pastor

### Section 1. Hiring and Tenure

A Lead Pastor candidate shall be selected by a unanimous vote of the Board of Elders. The Board of Elders will then seek an 80% affirmation vote from church members present at a special Church Business meeting called for the purpose of hiring a new Lead Pastor. If that candidate does not reach an 80% affirmation vote, the candidate's application will go back to the Elder Board for further consideration. Once hired, the newly hired Lead Pastor 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 Lead Pastor upon giving him one month's written notice of its intent for dismissal. The Lead Pastor 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 Lead Pastor mutually agree to a lesser time.

## Section 2. Duties

The Lead Pastor shall be an ex officio member of all boards and committees, and he shall be accountable to the Board of Elders. The Lead Pastor shall be responsible for the arrangement and conducting of all worship services at 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 Lead Pastor, the Board of Elders shall be responsible for the arrangement of all 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. Second, the Board of Elders examines the candidate and agrees to propose the individual as a candidate for elder or deacon. Third, the candidate will be presented at the annual Church business meeting or a specially called business meeting in order to seek an 80% affirmation vote from the Church members present at the meeting. Should a candidate fail to make the 80% affirmation, the Board of Elders will reconsider the candidate.

## 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 at the meeting 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 continue to meet the qualifications of the office and 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 running for affirmation or reaffirmation will be sent back to the

Board of Elders for more consideration if they fail to receive at least an 80% affirmation vote by Church membership at the Annual Church Business Meeting or a specially called Business Meeting. Elders and Deacons can only be removed from their office by the unanimous decision of the Board of Elders. Note: This vote does not include the board member in question.

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

The annual business meeting shall be held 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 Lead 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 and by Church email at least two weeks prior to the meeting. The chairman of the Board of Elders will preside over Church business meetings. All Church members and regular attendees are encouraged to attend these meetings. An affirmation vote by a simple majority of the members present is required to pass regular Church business matters. An 80% affirmation vote will be sought by church members present at the Annual Church Business Meeting or specially called Church Business meetings for the affirmation of all Church Elders, Deacons and the annual church budget. The Lead Pastor does not stand for affirmation each year but is accountable directly to the Elder Board. An 80% affirmation vote will also be sought for any changes to our Church Constitution, Amendments to the Constitution, or changes to our Statement of Faith.

## **Article X 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 in accordance with the current state and local laws at the time of dissolution.

## **Article XI 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 biological man and one biological 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 couple seeking to be married must have an affiliation with Shoreline Community Church.

The Board of Elders will rely upon biblical standards to approve or disapprove of any request for a wedding at the church or of any wedding officiated by a representative of Shoreline Community Church.

## Article XII 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.