

**River Oaks
Community Church
Bylaws**



Statement of Purpose

Four Guiding Statements of River Oaks

Our Purpose:

To proclaim and model Christianity in a culturally relevant way with the goal of developing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Our Process:

To develop fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ who...

... Go to the lost with the message of Christ

... Grow in their faith through a pursuit of Christ

... Show compassion to the poor with the love of Christ

Our Culture:

A culture of truth

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.” – 2 Timothy 3:16

God has spoken to us through the Bible and it is our final authority.

A culture of love

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” – John 13:34-35

We will seek to treat all people all the time as Jesus would.

A culture of relevance

“To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law, so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law, so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak.” – 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

We will seek to be culturally relevant and use methodology, technology and terminology that effectively communicate in the present environment.

A culture of freedom

“You were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature, rather, serve one another in love.” – Galatians 5:13

We will practice our Christian liberties with responsibility.

A culture of excellence

“So whether you eat or drink or what ever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” – 1 Corinthians 10:31

We will seek to honor God by doing all that we do, well.

A culture of participation

“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up...” - Ephesians 4:11-16

We will be a ‘lay-driven’ body of servants, using our gifts and abilities to help build the body of Christ.

A culture of unity

“May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” – John 17:23

We will strive for unity with our fellow Christians regardless of denominational or Church affiliation.

Our Doctrinal Statement:

God

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

The Bible

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

The Human Condition

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God’s saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus-Israel’s promised Messiah-was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

The Work of Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

The Church

We believe that the true Church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true Church is manifest in local Churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances: baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the Church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

Christian Living

We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.

Christ's Return

We believe in the personal, bodily and premillennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

Response and Eternal Destiny

We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.

Membership

Pre-Requisites for Membership

Any person seventeen (17) years of age or older who

- Confesses faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Agrees with this document (Bylaws).
- Has assurance of salvation.
- Demonstrates character and conduct in accord with his confession.

- Subscribes to the statement of faith.
- Is committed to the people, purposes, methods and strategy.
- Has applied for membership.
- Has completed the membership class consisting of such subjects as required by the Elders.
- Has regularly attended Sunday services for a period of six months.

Process for Joining

- After a prospective member has accomplished all of the foregoing, the names of prospective members will be published to the Congregation.
- Should any current congregant have scriptural reasons why a prospective member should not be allowed to join, they should:
 - Go to the person and seek to resolve the concern.
 - If there is not positive resolution, the current member should then express the concern to an Elder. The Elders will then seek to resolve the concern, and their decision as to whether the prospective member's name should be submitted to the Congregation shall be final.
- Elders approve or decline membership.
- Elders will announce new members to the Congregation.

Responsibilities and Privileges of Members:

We are a "lay-driven" body of servants, using our gifts and abilities to help build the body of Christ (Eph 4:11-16).

- To be active in attendance of the regular functions of the body (Hebrews 10:25).
- To be actively involved within our body in using the member's gifts and abilities to implement the strategy of the Church (Eph. 4:11-17).
- To be active in supporting the body financially (II Cor. 9:6-9).
- To be active in the ordinance of the Lord's Supper (I Cor. 11:23-26).
- To follow (or have followed) the Lord in baptism (Matt. 28:19-20).
- To be relationally connected to others in this body (small groups, service groups, etc.).
- To humbly submit to the authority of Scripture in faith and practice.
- To serve on Congregationally Approved Committees.
- To vote on matters put before them such as:
 - Election of Elders and Deacons
 - Committees whose results require Congregational Approval
 - Budget
 - Hire of senior level staff
 - By-Law changes
 - Expenditures in excess of the approved budget
 - Acquisitions or sales of Church property, or the leasing of property to others or from others unless included in the budget which has a material financial impact on the Church.

Affirmation

Each year (at minimum) all Members shall be given the opportunity to reaffirm their membership. If a Member does not feel as if he or she can reaffirm his or her membership, their name may be removed from the membership list. If after two cycles of re-affirmation we have not received any contact, membership will be reviewed by the Elders for possible removal.

Withdrawal

Any Member who wishes to withdraw from the Church shall submit a letter requesting Withdrawal to the Elders. The Elders will approve such a request at their next meeting, confirming the Withdrawal by letter.

Discipline

Members shall be subject to Church Discipline (See Church Discipline).

Leadership**Elders****Elders are men who shall:**

- Shepherd the flock (Acts 20:28, I Peter 5:1-3).
- Lead through example (I Peter 5:3).
- Teach and exhort (I Timothy 3:2, Titus 1:9).
- Refute those who contradict truth (Acts 20:29-31, Titus 1:9).
- Manage the Church of God (I Timothy 3:5, I Timothy 5:7).
- Pray for the sick (James 5:14).
- Provide oversight to the Deacons, Ministry Staff, any other paid or non paid staff and employees, and all operations of the Church and body (I Timothy 3:5, I Timothy 5:7, and I Timothy generally).
- Manage the Budgeting Process (in conjunction with Staff and Deacons).
- Be responsive to the concerns of the Congregation.
- Defend the ministry philosophies as stated.

Qualifications for (I Timothy 3:2-7, Titus 1:6-9)

- Above reproach
- Blameless
- Husband of but one wife
- Temperate
- Self-controlled
- Respectable
- Hospitable
- Able to teach
- Not given to drunkenness
- Not violent but gentle
- Not quarrelsome
- Not a lover of money

- Not pursuing dishonest gain
- Manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect, whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient
- Must not be a recent convert
- Good reputation with outsiders
- Not overbearing
- Not quick tempered
- One who loves what is good
- Upright, holy, and disciplined
- Must hold firmly the trustworthy message as it has been taught

Number of

There shall be a minimum number of five (5) Elders. There shall be a maximum number of ten (10) Elders. The number of Elders can exceed ten (10) for one (1) year without a By-Law amendment. Elders shall be added or subtracted from the Eldership in January or February.

The Senior Pastor shall be entitled to serve as an Elder so long as he continues in his capacity as the Senior Pastor. The term restrictions on serving shall not apply to the Senior Pastor. For purpose of determining the required number of Elders, the Senior Pastor shall be counted as one of the Elders.

Term of Office

Each Elder shall serve a four (4) year term subject to Elder peer review no later than the end of the second year. The results of Elder peer review may be that the Elder under review continues, resigns, or is removed by a vote of two-thirds (67%) of the Elders who are not reviewed. At the end of term, that individual may not serve for a period of one (1) year.

Terms shall be staggered so that approximately one-fourth (25%) of the Elders are elected in any given year. The Elders have the ability to appoint a retiring Elder to an additional one (1) year term to prevent greater than one-fourth (25%) turnover in any given year. No Elder can serve more than five (5) consecutive years.

The Elders may also propose shorter terms for incoming Elders to avert future “greater than one-fourth (25%) turnover” situations. If special terms are to be applied, the candidate must agree and his term is to be defined on the ballot for Congregational Approval.

Vacancy

If there is a vacancy in a position of Elder, it shall remain vacant until the next Annual Meeting unless the Elders choose to appoint a qualified man to fill the vacant position(s). Should such an appointment occur, the appointee would need to be re-affirmed by member vote at the next Elder election and would only complete the term remaining on the vacant position.

Meetings of Elders

Meeting(s) of the Elders will normally be presided over by the Chairman or, in his absence, the Vice-Chairman. Elder approval shall normally mean approval by a majority vote of the Elders present (assuming a quorum is present), except where the Bylaws require a higher approval percentage. A quorum, for purposes of an Elder meeting, shall mean that a majority of the sitting Elders are present at the meeting.

Deacons (Acts 6:2-3, Rom 16:1)

Deacons are men and women (*Deaconess*) who serve under the direction of the Elders, undertaking those areas of service necessary for the Church's functioning that would otherwise prohibit the Elders and other leaders (Senior Pastor and Staff) from performing their Biblical responsibilities.

While no specific, ongoing roles are mentioned in Scripture, the following areas would normally be delegated to the Deacons:

- Finances, such as:
 - Financial reporting
 - Managing the approved budget
 - All other financial activity (benevolence, counting offering, etc)
- Facility
- Legal
- Count ballots and record results of Congregational Voting
- Other roles as assigned by the Elders

Qualifications for (I Timothy 3:8-10, 12, I Timothy 3:11)

- Worthy of respect
- Sincere
- Not indulging in much wine
- Not pursuing dishonest gain
- Must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience
- Must first be tested
- Husband of but one wife or a wife of but one husband
- Male Deacons must manage his children and his household well
- Female Deacons must be a faithful helpmate to her husband in the care and development of her children and her household
- Worthy of respect
- Not malicious talkers
- Temperate
- Trustworthy in everything

Number of

There shall be a minimum number of five (5) Deacons. The Elders shall specify the exact number and may increase or decrease the number but shall not have fewer than five (5). Deacons shall be added or subtracted from the Board of Deacons at the Annual Meeting. The Deacons are encouraged to delegate responsibility to qualified individuals when

necessary to fulfill their tasks. Any person to whom the Deacons have delegated responsibility shall be subject to Elder review, from time to time.

Term of Office

Each Deacon shall serve a four (4) year term subject to a Deacon peer review and make recommendations to the Elders no later than the end of the second year for re-affirmation. As a result of a Deacon peer review the Deacon might continue, resign, or be removed with two-thirds (67%) vote of the Elders. At the end of the term, that individual may not serve for a period of one (1) year. Terms shall be staggered so that approximately one-fourth (25%) of the Deacons are elected in any given year. The Deacons have the ability to recommend to the Elders the extension of a sitting Deacon's term one (1) year in the event the one-fourth (25%) turnover is exceeded. No Deacon can serve more than five (5) consecutive years.

Vacancy

If there is a vacancy in a Deacon position, it shall remain vacant until the next Annual Meeting unless the Elders choose to appoint a qualified member to fill the vacant position(s). Should such an appointment occur, the appointee would need to be re-affirmed by member vote at the next Elder election and would only complete the term remaining on the vacant position.

Leadership Roles

The Chairperson shall be appointed by the Elders and Vice-Chairperson of the Deacons shall be elected from and by the Deacons at the first meeting of the year for the Board of Deacons. A recorder shall be appointed by the Deacons to take minutes.

The Chairperson shall determine the agenda. The Vice-Chairperson shall perform the duties of the Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson.

Meetings of Deacons

Normally, Deacon action shall mean approvals by a majority of the Deacons present at a meeting (assuming a quorum is present), except where the Bylaws otherwise require a higher percentage. A quorum shall exist for any Deacon meeting if a majority of the sitting Deacons are present at the meeting.

Officers

General

The Elders shall be the Board of Directors for purposes of the State of Indiana Not for Profit Act. The officers of the Church shall consist of a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other officers as the Elders may, by resolution, designate from time to time. No two (2) offices may be held by the same person. No Pastor of the Church can be a corporate officer.

Election, Term of Office, and Qualification (exceptions noted)

All officers (with the exception of the Treasurer) shall be chosen annually by the Elders. Each officer shall hold office (unless the officer resigns, is removed, or dies) until the next Annual Meeting of the Elders or until a successor is chosen and qualified.

Vacancies

In the event an Office of the Church becomes vacant by death, resignation, retirement, disqualification, or any other cause, the Elders shall elect a person to fill such vacancy, and the person so elected shall hold office and serve until the next Annual Meeting of the Elders, until a successor is elected and qualified, or until the officer's death, resignation, or removal.

Chairman

The Chairman shall: preside at all meetings of the Elders and all Congregational Meetings; be the Chief Executive Officer; have and exercise general charge and supervision of the affairs of the Church together with the Senior Pastor; do and perform such other duties as these Bylaws provide or as may be assigned by the Elders.

Vice-Chairman

The Vice-Chairman shall exercise and perform the duties of the Chairman during the absence or disability of the Chairman.

Secretary

The Secretary shall have the custody and care of the corporate records and the Minutes Book of the Church. The Secretary shall attend all the meetings of the Elders and the Congregational Meeting, and shall keep, or cause to be kept, a true and complete record of the proceedings of such meetings, and shall collect reports or minutes from committees of the Elders when required. The Secretary shall attend to the giving and serving of all notices of the Church, shall file and take care of all papers and documents belonging to the Church, shall authenticate records of the Church as necessary, and shall perform such other duties as may be required by the Bylaws or as may be prescribed by the Elders.

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be selected by the Deacons (but need not be a Deacon) and approved by the Elders. The Treasurer shall keep correct and complete records of accounting, showing accurately at all times the financial condition of the Church. The Treasurer shall be the legal custodian of all monies, notes, securities, and other valuables which may, from time to time, come into the possession of the Church. All funds of the Church coming into the Treasurer's hands shall be immediately deposited in some reliable bank or other depository to be designated by the Deacons and affirmed by the Elders, and shall keep such bank account in the name of the Church. The Treasurer shall furnish, at meetings of the Elders or Deacons, or whenever requested, a statement of the financial condition of the Church and shall perform such other duties as may be required by this Code of Bylaws or as may be prescribed by the Elders or the Chairman.

It is recommended that third party financial audits are performed in accordance with current accounting standards.

Removal and Resignations

Any officer may be removed from office, with or without cause, by the Elders. Any officer may resign at any time by delivering notice to the Elders, the Chairman or the Secretary. A resignation is effective upon delivery unless the notice specifies a later effective date.

Congregationally Approved Committees

The Nominating and Search Committees (which may be charged with the responsibility of nominating persons or searching for persons to serve in the offices of Senior Staff, Elder, and Deacon), Bylaws, Church Building, Planning Expansion or other Committees designated by the Elders may be appointed and may be established upon the recommendation of the Elders for approval by the Congregation at a Congregational Meeting. The Elders shall appoint the Chairperson of Congregationally Approved Committees. Only Members can sit on these committees. Sitting Elders cannot comprise a majority.

Other Committees

Other committees may be established, from time to time, upon the recommendation and approval of the Elders without the need for congregational approval. Non-members may sit on these committees but Members must comprise a majority.

Congregational Meetings

Type of

One Annual Meeting shall be held during January or February of each year. Additional business meetings of the Congregation may be called, from time to time, by the Elders or by a petition of one-third (33%) of the Members of the Congregation. It is the intent of this provision to have business meetings throughout the year as may be needed to conduct the business of the Congregation. In lieu of a business meeting, Congregational Approval may be obtained by distributing and collecting ballots from members.

Notice of

The Annual Meeting and business meetings of the Congregation shall be announced at the regular worship service(s) of the Congregation and using at least one other mass communication form such as the website, e-mail or carrier mail so that Members of the Congregation are given notice at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the Annual Meeting and at least one (1) week prior to the date of business meetings.

Quorum

Only Members will be counted in making up a quorum for conducting Congregational business. One-fourth (25%) of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum for the Annual Meeting and/or any meeting in which By-Law revision(s) are on the agenda or discussed; one-tenth (10%) of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum for all other business. Members' absentee or advance ballots shall count towards the quorum.

Voting/Congregational Approval

All Members shall have the right to vote in all matters coming before the business meetings. Each Member is entitled to one (1) vote. Non-members' ballots will be counted separately and shall not count towards Congregational Approval.

Congregational Approval means approval (where a quorum has been obtained, including absentee ballots), by a majority of the voting Members, including those present and absentee ballots submitted to the meeting, unless otherwise stated in the Bylaws.

Matters of the meeting are limited to the contents of the published notice. No voting may be done after the meeting has lasted two (2) hours from the announced time it was to convene.

Upon the recommendation of the Elders and/or by a one-third (33%) vote of the Congregation, absentee ballots may be distributed one (1) week prior to any Annual or business meeting. In the event of any meeting or vote lacking quorum, the meeting will be continued until an announced future date, and additional ballots can be distributed prior to the new meeting date to assist in obtaining quorum. Votes already properly cast shall continue to count towards Congregational Approval.

Rules of Order

While business meetings of the Congregation will, by necessity, be organized to conduct the business of the Church, these meetings shall be organized in a manner to encourage a family dialogue between the leadership of the Church and the Congregation. As determined, from time to time, by the Elders, the rules of order contained in Robert's Rules of Order (revised) shall govern the business sessions of the Congregation. The Chairman shall conduct the Annual and other Congregational meetings according to an Agenda appropriate for such meeting.

Nominating Process

Appointment

The Elders shall recommend a Nominating Committee for Congregational Approval.

Responsibilities of Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee shall be responsible to solicit nominations from the Congregation for Elders and Deacons, to interview nominees, and to present the list of qualified candidates to the Elders. The Nominating Committee members shall continue in office until the Annual Meeting.

The Nominating Committee shall solicit nominations from the members in writing for Elder and Deacon (September is recommended). A Member needs at least three (3) nominations from Members of the Congregation (who do not reside in his or her household and who is not a parent or child of the candidate), and the candidate must have been a Member of the Congregation in good standing for at least two (2) years (the spouse of a paid staff member cannot be an Elder or Deacon).

Interviews

The Nominating Committee shall ascertain through personal interviews with the nominees whether each nominee: (a) meets the qualifications for being an Elder or Deacon and will fulfill the role of an Elder or Deacon as stated in these Bylaws (letters of reference may be solicited at the discretion of the Nominating Committee) and (b) subscribes to the Four Guiding Statements of River Oaks.

Recommendations of Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee shall then present a list of qualified candidates for Elder and Deacon to the Elders. The list of qualified candidates reported to the Elders must be supported by two-thirds (67%) of the members of the Nominating Committee. It is desired that the members of the Nominating Committee be unanimous in their recommendation.

Elders Role

The Elders shall review through personal interviews with each qualified candidate his or her agreement with the Four Guiding Statements of River Oaks and these Bylaws and any other matters that the Elders deem relevant. Letters of reference may be solicited at the discretion of the Elders.

The Elders shall then present the list of qualified, reviewed, and approved candidates for Elders and Deacons to the Congregation at least two (2) weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. The list of qualified and reviewed candidates reported to the Congregation must be supported by two-thirds (67%) of the Elders. It is desired that the Elders be unanimous in their recommendation.

Election

The Congregation shall elect by vote the Elders and Deacons at the Annual Meeting. Those candidates receiving the highest votes shall be those elected. In the event of a tie, an additional vote shall be undertaken to break the tie.

Church Discipline

Scripture teaches that the sins of another brother or sister are to be confronted in a loving and caring manner (Matthew 5:23-24; 7:1-5; 18:15-17; I Corinthians 5; II Corinthians 2:5-11; Galatians 6:1-2). Sin is defined as set forth in the New International Version Bible (NIV). Therefore, any member aware of a wrong attitude or lifestyle in another member of the Congregation should first examine himself for any sin prior to privately confronting the member. If restoration or repentance is not offered, then two (2) or three (3) mature impartial believers are to be included in the process. If, in their opinion, repentance is needed but not offered, then the matter should be brought to the attention of the Elders, who will seek to bring about restoration. It is expected that most reconciliation will happen at the private level and that only after every reasonable avenue of restoration or repentance has been sincerely exhausted will the matter be brought to the Elders.

Should the erring member continue to remain firmly non-repentant, the matter may be

brought before the Congregation, or may be handled privately with the Elders, at the discretion of the Elders, and the Elders may inform the Congregation concerning the member's sin, continued state of non repentance, and the action of discipline to be enacted where appropriate.

Even after the foregoing step or steps, the goal is still to see the erring member restored. The Congregation must continue to love the erring member and work towards restoration. It will be the responsibility of the Elders to determine when genuine repentance has occurred and to inform the Congregation. When that has happened, the Congregation should express forgiveness, provide comfort, and extend grace to the restored individual.

This entire process must be done with the attitude of love, concern, and humility, and should be motivated by the sincere desire to see the erring member restored to fellowship.

The discipline process for Elders, Deacons, and Pastoral and Ministry Staff may include an additional step of denominational leadership involvement should there be no resolution at the level of the Elders, if the Elders believe such may be necessary.

Amendments to Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation

The Elders may make a recommendation to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting or any business meeting called for such purpose to amend the Bylaws or Articles of Incorporation.

Any changes must be submitted to the Members of the Church by the Elders in written form at least two (2) weeks before the proposed meeting and can be adopted only by a vote of two-thirds (67%) of the membership approving it, counting both those present at a meeting and those absentee ballots (where a quorum was obtained by counting both members present and absentee ballots).

Definitions

“Congregation” as used in the Bylaws shall be taken to mean the Church as incorporated under the Constitution and the Bylaws.

“Member” shall be any person who had been approved as a member under Membership.

“Church” as used in the Bylaws shall be taken to mean River Oaks Community Church of Elkhart, IN.

Scripture References

All Scripture references, citations, and quotes are to be made to and taken from The Holy Bible New International Version Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society.

Gender

Whenever necessary in these Bylaws and where the context admits, the singular term and the related pronoun shall include the plural and the masculine term and the related pronoun shall include the feminine.

Property Rights


Any Member who has withdrawn or whose membership has been terminated loses all rights to membership and shall have no claims upon any part of the Church properties should the same ever be distributed at any time. The private property of the individual Members of this Church shall be exempt from the corporate debts of the Church.

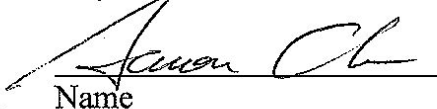
Indemnification

The Church shall indemnify any and all of its directors or officers or former directors or officers or any person who may have served at its request or by its election as a director or officer of another Church, against expenses actually and necessarily incurred by them in connection with the defense or settlement of any action, suit or proceeding, civil or criminal, in which they, or any of them, are made parties, or a party, by reason of being or having been directors or a director or officer of the Church or of such other Church, except in relation to matters as to which any such director or officer or former director or officer or person shall be adjudged in such action, suit, or proceeding to be liable for willful misconduct in performance of duty and to such matters as shall be settled by agreement predicated on existence of such liability. The indemnification provided may be entitled under any resolution, By-Law, agreement, and vote of members of disinterested directors or otherwise, both as to action in his official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding such office.

The Bylaws were officially amended by the Congregation as the revision to the Bylaws of the River Oaks Community Church of Elkhart, Inc., Indiana on:

this date September 6, 2009

 Chairman of the Elder Board
Name

 Secretary
Name

Donald P. Rockwell Treasurer
Name