

# Versailles Christian Church Constitution



Effective Date: 1 January 2021

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## I. NAME

The name of this organization is Versailles Christian Church, hereafter referred to as VCC. VCC is located at 105 W. Ward St, Versailles OH 45380.

VCC's main objective is to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus in Versailles and around the world.

## II. STATEMENT OF FAITH

This congregation confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe. We believe the Bible to be the Word of God and the principles embraced therein to be used for the rule of both faith and life.

**We believe in one God; the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

*(Matthew 5:16; 45; Matthew 6:1,4,8,9; James 1:17; John 1:1; John 14:9; Genesis 1:2, John 4:24; John 14:16-20)*

**We believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of all things visible and invisible.**

*(Genesis 1:1; Acts 17:24-28; Hebrews 11:3)*

**We believe in Jesus Christ, God's one and only Son, our one and only Savior,**

*(John 1:14; 1 John 4:9; John 3:16; 2 Peter 3:18)*

**Who was born Jesus of Nazareth, both fully human and fully divine, conceived of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,**

*(Matthew 21:11; John 19:19; John 1:14; Romans 5:15-17; Colossians 2:9; 1 John 1:1; Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:26-38)*

**Who suffered and was crucified under Pontius Pilate,**

*(Luke 23:1-46)*

**Who died and was buried, and Who rose again bodily from the dead on the third day,**

*(Luke 23:44-24:8; John 20:24-29; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8)*

**Who ascended into Heaven and now sits at the right hand of the Father,**

*(Luke 22:69; Acts 1:1-9; Colossians 3:1)*

**and Who will return to earth to judge both the living and the dead.**

*(Matthew 24:36-42; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:10-11; Acts 10:39-42; 1 Peter 4:5)*

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, Who is an active and operative part of the triune God,**

*(John 16:5-15; Acts 1:7-8; Romans 8:26-27)*

**and Who dwells in every Christian.**

*(1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 6:19; 2 Timothy 1:14)*

**We believe in the Bible as God's Holy Word. We believe God inspired the autographic (original writings) of the inerrant Scriptures.**

*(Mark 12:36; John 14:26; John 16:12-15; 1 Corinthians 2:12-13; 2 Timothy 3:14-16; 2 Peter 1:20-21)*

**We accept the Bible as the final authority for all matters of faith and practice.**

*(Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 5:18; Matthew 24:35; Romans 15:4; Hebrews 4:12)*

**We believe that God has established marriage as a lifelong, exclusive relationship between one man and one woman, and that all intimate sexual activity outside the marriage relationship, whether heterosexual, homosexual, or otherwise is immoral and therefore a sin.** *(Gen. 2:24-25; Ex. 20:14,17; Ex. 22:19; Lev. 18:22-23; Lev. 20:13, 15-16; Matt. 19:4-6, 9; Romans 1:18-31; 1 Cor. 6:9-10, 15-20; 1 Tim. 1:8-11; Jude 7)*

**We believe that God created the human race male and female and that all conduct with the intent to adopt a gender other than one's birth gender is immoral and therefore a sin.** *(Gen. 1:27; Deut. 22:5))*

**We believe the Bible teaches that man, created by God, willfully sinned against God and is consequently lost and without hope apart from Jesus Christ.**

*(Acts 4:12; Romans 3:23)*

**We believe the Bible teaches that salvation and the forgiveness of sins is achieved only by grace through the blood of Jesus Christ.**

*(Matthew 26:28; Romans 5:9; Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 John 1:7)*

**We believe the Bible teaches that one receives God's grace by putting all of one's faith in Jesus Christ and His work on the cross alone. One's faith is proclaimed through public confession and represented through public baptism.**

*(Romans 5:1-2; Luke 24:45-47; Acts 3:19; Acts 17:30; 2 Peter 3:9; Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:9; Philippians 2:11; 1 John 4:14; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:1-7; Galatians 3:27; Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:21)*

**We believe in the Church of Jesus Christ, founded on the Day of Pentecost and consisting of all Christians everywhere.**

*(Matthew 16:13-18; Acts 2:14-47)*

**We embrace our responsibility to fulfill "the Great Commission."**

*(Matthew 28:19-20)*

**We believe the Bible teaches that the Elders are to exercise authority over the local congregation.**

*(Acts 20:28; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4)*

### **III. MISSION**

VCC exists to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus in Versailles and around the world.

### **IV. MEMBERSHIP**

The church shall receive as members those who have repented of their sins and placed their full trust in Jesus and His work on the cross for the forgiveness of their sins, and in Him alone; and who willingly submit themselves to the Lordship of Christ and to the members and leaders of this church and to the statement of faith (Article II above) and who are at least 16 years of age. Membership is granted following the process as laid out in the VCC By-Laws.

### **V. PROPERTY RIGHTS**

All property of VCC is irrevocably dedicated to religious and charitable purposes. If the church membership votes to dissolve and cease to function as a church of like faith and practice, or if the membership should dissolve through some disaster, the property rights shall benefit only a fund, foundation, or corporation organized and operated for religious or charitable purposes. Any proceeds from the sale of the church building and/or personal property therein shall be distributed to another organization(s) as deemed by the Elders in consultation with the Outreach Team Lead.

### **VI. GOVERNMENT**

Ultimate authority lies in Christ as the head of the church and in the Scripture as the basis for all faith and practice. This church shall remain free and self-governing. The government is vested in its membership and administered by the church board. The members shall affirm Biblically-qualified leadership to carry out Christ's purposes.

The powers of this congregation are vested in the congregational meeting called and conducted as provided in this Constitution and the By-Laws.

The church board shall be the executive body of this church. It shall maintain general oversight of all the activities of the church, plan prayerfully for the church's future, provide a forum for communication among the various ministries and officers, and resolve differences of opinion among them.

The congregation is authorized to:

- Hire a pastor
- Terminate a pastor
- Approve the annual budget
- Acquire real property by gift, purchase, or other lawful means
- Sell, transfer, or otherwise dispose of its real property by any lawful means
- Affirm the Elders and Ministry Team Leads and require them to carry out their duties in accordance with this Constitution and the By-Laws.

The board is created to manage and conduct the work of the church as described further in the By-Laws. Committees/Ministry Areas may be created at the request of the board to serve special short-term purposes. Likewise, they may be dissolved if the need no longer exists.

All board members (see Article VII below) must be members of VCC with the higher goal of facilitating a peaceful, functional, godly team.

## **VII. CHURCH BOARD**

The board members of VCC shall consist of the Pastor(s), appointed Lay-Elders, and Ministry Team Leads. The Lay-Elders and Ministry Team Leads will be affirmed by the congregation. See the By-Laws for additional information.

## **VIII. PROVISION FOR BY-LAWS**

The By-Laws supplement and provide a vehicle to implement and carry out the principles outlined by this Constitution. They explain how VCC functions in terms of membership, government, support staff, ministry areas, and meetings.

Job descriptions will be created for all paid positions. These will also be used to provide performance feedback.

## **IX. AMENDMENTS**

The Statement of Faith may not be altered or amended to weaken any Scriptural standard.

The Constitution and By-Laws will be reviewed annually by the Board to ensure it reflects the needs of this church family. Amendments will be proposed to the congregation as necessary.

Additionally amendments to this Constitution and By-Laws may be proposed by any congregation member (see Article IV above). Proposals must be filed in writing with the board before formal consideration by this congregation at its regular or special meeting called for that purpose.

If approved by at least two-thirds vote of the board, the constitutional or by-laws amendment will be presented to the congregation at any regular or special meeting of the congregation called for that purpose. Proposed changes must be provided to the congregation, along with notice in the church bulletin of the vote on these changes, at least two weeks prior to the meeting at which the revision or amendments will be presented for approval. For a change to take effect, two-thirds of the members present must approve it.