

BY-LAWS OF COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
ISSAQUAH, WASHINGTON

INTRODUCTION

These bylaws, in the main, address and detail the relationship of Covenant Presbyterian Church of Issaquah to the civil authority.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this corporation shall be: "Covenant Presbyterian Church of Issaquah" which is a domestic non-profit organization. In these By-laws, the corporation shall also be referred to as "CPC." The address of the registered office of the Corporation is 22116 SE 51st Place Issaquah, WA 98029.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The general purpose of CPC is to proclaim, administer, and uphold the gospel and law of Christ as revealed in the Scriptures, and in accordance with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in America.

ARTICLE III. GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

The operation of CPC shall in all instances be, in order of importance, according to the Holy Scriptures and the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in America, which consists of the doctrinal standards set forth in the Westminster Confession of Faith, together with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms and *The Book of Church Order*, as adopted by the Presbyterian Church in America ("Governing Documents").

Should any question, process or procedure arise that is not dealt with or delineated in these Bylaws, or in the Governing Documents, then the Revised Code of Washington ("RCW"), Chapter 24.03, "Washington Nonprofit Corporation Act" shall control.

ARTICLE IV. DIRECTORS

The corporate affairs of this church shall be conducted and managed by a Board of Directors which is comprised of all Session (Elders) and Diaconate officers, elected as prescribed by *The Book of Church Order* of the Presbyterian Church in America. The term for Ruling Elders and Deacons shall be for three (3) years. After serving his term an Elder or Deacon shall be eligible for reelection.

These Bylaws shall not govern the operation of the Session or the Board of Deacons. The Directors are subject to *The Book of Church Order* of the Presbyterian Church in America, the lawful direction of the Session of CPC, the laws of the State of Washington, CPC's Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws.

Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at such place, either within or outside the State of Washington, as may, from time to time, be fixed by resolution of the Board of Directors, or as may be specified in the notice of meeting. This Corporation shall have four corporate offices: president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. Each office has a three- (3-) year term which is perpetually renewable. The Board of Directors shall elect corporate officers from their own number. Teaching

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Pastors shall not be elected for, or otherwise hold corporate offices. The Board of Directors shall not transfer, sell, purchase, or encumber with loan any real estate for the church except by express authorization conveyed through a majority vote of the membership present at a meeting of the corporation held in accordance with the laws of the State of Washington.

ARTICLE V. GOVERNMENT

CPC is to be governed by the Session.

ARTICLE VI. MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION

Members of Corporation shall be the Congregation of CPC, which consists of those persons who have been admitted into the communing membership of CPC according to the requirements and provisions of *The Book of Church Order* of the Presbyterian Church in America and the Session of CPC. Members may be removed from membership at their own request following the steps of appropriate pastoral care as set forth in BCO 38-4. If a member requests to withdraw because of specific problems or disappointments with the church, the Session shall attempt to resolve those matters so that the member may remain in the church and enjoy greater fruitfulness and personal spiritual growth. If the Session is unable to resolve those matters, it shall offer to assist the member in locating a church of like faith and practice that can respond more effectively to his gifts and needs. If it appears to the Session that a member has requested removal merely to avoid church discipline, that request shall not be given effect until the disciplinary process has been properly concluded.

ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS OF THE CORPORATION

Meetings of the Congregation of the church, when called pursuant to the procedures required by *The Book of Church Order* of the Presbyterian Church in America, shall be considered to be meetings of the Corporation when the purpose of calling such meetings is for the consideration of matters concerning civil law, such as the buying, selling or mortgaging of real estate. Such Congregational Meetings shall be conducted according to the rules and procedures of *The Book of Church Order* of the Presbyterian Church in America.

The fiscal year of this church shall end on the 31st day of December in each year, and the Annual Meeting shall be held within six weeks thereafter. At the annual meeting of the congregation, the minutes of the preceding annual meeting and reports of the Clerk of Session, Officers, and all organizations of this church shall be presented. The list of officer nominees shall be submitted to the membership for action. Also, such other business as may be necessary shall be transacted. The minutes of congregational and corporation meetings shall be read and approved before adjournment. All meetings shall adhere to, and be conducted by, the most recent version of Robert's Rules of Order. Quorums and voting shall be governed by RCW 24.03, and the minimum voting age shall be eighteen (18) years.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

These Bylaws may be amended only by an affirmative vote of three-quarters (3/4) of the members voting at a Congregational Meeting, such amount to be not less than a quorum as provided in Article VI above. An exact copy of the proposed amendment shall have been provided and conspicuously posted in the Narthex of CPC on the four (4) Sundays immediately preceding said meeting.

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CPC STATEMENT ON HUMAN LIFE AND SEXUALITY

On Marriage

We believe the term “marriage” has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen. 2:18-25).

On Sexuality

We believe God intends sexual intimacy to be enjoyed only between a man and a woman with mutual consent within the marriage union (1 Cor. 6:18-7:5; Heb. 13:4). We believe that any sexual activity outside of marriage, i.e. any form of sexual immorality, including but not limited to adultery, co-habitation, fornication, rape, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, use of pornography, etc., is sinful and is an offense against God (Matt. 15:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Rom. 1:24-27; Exod. 20:14; Lev. 18:6-23).

On Gender

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen 1:26- 27). Rejection of one’s biological sex is sinful and is an offense against God (Deut. 22:5). On Life We believe that every human being is created by God in his image (Genesis 1:27). Human life is therefore sacred, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend and protect all human life. To unjustly take any human life in any way, including by abortion or euthanasia, is sinful and is an offense against God (Exod. 20:13; Ps. 139:13-16).