

# Eastern Pines Church of Christ

Greenville, NC

## Constitution

We, the members of Eastern Pines Church of Christ, henceforth referred to as “congregation,” a governing body, in order to promote the work of the church in the spirit of Christ and thus advance His Kingdom, do hereby adopt this constitution.

### **ARTICLE 1: NAME AND PURPOSE**

#### Section A – NAME

The name of this congregation shall be Eastern Pines Church of Christ, Eastern Pines Christian Church, or Eastern Pines Church: “A New Testament Church”, standing firmly for its own right of self-government, not submitting to dictation or domination from any outside ecclesiastical organizational or power.

#### Section B – PURPOSE

The purpose of this congregation is to further the plea of the New Testament Church as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, its doctrine, faith, and practice; to win souls to God through Jesus Christ; and to promote our individual growth in Christian character, love and service. To that end, we will labor together in preaching and teaching the gospel at home and to the uttermost parts of the earth by Loving God, Loving Others, and Serving Both.

#### Section C – CORE BELIEFS

#### **WE BELIEVE:**

That the Bible is the inspired word of God, divinely preserved: “lamp for our feet and light for our path.” ( 2 Timothy 3:16; 1 Peter 1:20-21)

That Jesus Christ in the flesh was both God and man, and he died for our sins and arose from the dead. (John 1:1-14; Philippians 2:5-8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8)

That every person has worth as a creation of God, but “all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

That forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life are available to all who will make Jesus Lord and savior. (Acts 4:12)

That those who wish to accept Christ and receive His grace must believe in Him, repent of sin, confess their faith, and be baptized (immersed) into Him. (Ephesians 2:8-9; Mark 16:16; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 2:38)

That after following God's plan to accept Christ, we must remain faithful and loyal to Him: “unto the point of death.” (Revelation 2:10)

The Church is the body of Christ on earth and exists to save the lost and edify the saved. (Ephesians 4:13-18)

That Jesus Christ will one day return for those who have made Him Lord. (Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

That marriage is between one man and one woman. (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5-6)

## **ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP**

The membership of this congregation consists of those who are identified now as members of the congregation and those who shall unite with it by immersion or by transfer of membership, having accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal savior through immersion.

## **ARTICLE III: OFFICERS**

### **Section A – Officers**

The following officers shall be elected by the leadership for the term as designated for each or until such time as a successor is elected and assumes office.

#### **Elders and Deacons**

Elders and Deacons shall be approved by existing Elders and the minister according to the qualifications in the Scriptures. The leadership shall give the congregation two weeks to give any biblical reasons that an individual should not serve. Elders and Deacons shall be eligible to serve an unlimited number of terms.

**Treasurer**

Unlimited terms chosen by leadership.

**Section B – Duties of Officers****Elders**

Elders shall, according to the New Testament scriptures, have oversight of the spiritual life and welfare of the congregation. They are responsible for overseeing all teaching given in the congregation, from the pulpit, in the classroom and all other gatherings of the congregation. They are responsible for looking after the necessary cases of discipline among the members. Each elder shall have a complete list of names and addresses of the members, take note of absences from worship and encourage regular attendance.

**Deacons**

Deacons shall be responsible for the temporal welfare of the congregation, comfort and cleanliness of the church. They shall lead in helping any member of the congregation who may be in distress by investigating such cases, reporting to elders and making whatever appeal they think necessary and advisable. They should, along with the elders, concern themselves with the spiritual growth and the development of the congregation.

**Treasurer**

The treasurer shall deposit and disperse all funds of the congregation according to the authority designated to her or him by the leadership. The treasurer shall have a written financial report each month that will be sent to the leadership for review.

**Section C – Filling Vacancies**

In the event of death, resignation, or other separation from the congregation, the leadership shall have authority to declare a vacancy in the office of minister, elder, Deacon and treasurer. They can fill the declared vacancy by temporary appointment while looking for a permanent replacement.

**ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS****Section A – Meetings To Be Held**

The congregation shall hold: an annual meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> month in the year to approve the budget, and conduct other matters of the church.

The leadership will hold a business meeting once a quarter or whenever necessary. Dates and times will be at the leadership discretion.

#### Section B – Notice

Notice of all regular or special business meetings of the congregation shall be given from the pulpit at a regular Sunday morning service of the congregation and shall be posted two weeks in advance of the meeting. Meetings deemed expedient by the majority of the leadership shall be called within less than two weeks provided the congregation members are notified.

#### Section C – Voting

All members of the congregation of age sixteen (16) or older may vote.

#### Section D – Proxy

At all meetings of the members of the congregation, each voting member shall be entitled to one (1) vote, and may be represented at such meetings in person or by proxy. All proxies shall be in writing and filed with the leadership immediately after the meeting is called to order.

### **ARTICLE V: THE MINISTER AND OTHER EMPLOYEES**

#### Section A – Recognition and Authority

Eastern Pines Church recognizes the position of “Ordained Minister” as a distinct ministerial role within the church. Those who hold this position are under the authority and approval of the elder board to perform religious duties and responsibilities as ministers of the Gospel. This position is regarded as the highest level of ministerial authority within the local church context.

#### Section B – Rights & Responsibilities

Ordained ministers are entrusted with full rights and responsibilities to administer all religious duties, including but not limited to, preaching, teaching, officiating sacraments, and providing spiritual leadership. The position of ordained minister is typically held for life, unless a breach of moral, ethical, or legal obligations is determined, in which case the elder board reserves the right to review and to potentially revoke the ordination.

#### Section C – Duties

The minister of the congregation shall perform the duties which usually pertain to that office. As spiritual administrator of the congregation, he shall be an ex officio member of all organized

groups, auxiliaries, and committees. The minister needs to be of the Church of Christ and hold to its beliefs.

#### Section D – Selection

1. The leadership shall be responsible for recommending a minister to the congregation. Following the presentation of a trial sermon by the candidate recommended by the leadership, the congregation shall vote (a) to issue a call, (b) to deny the call, or (c) to defer a vote until at least one other candidate has been offered for consideration.
2. Selection of a minister must be accepted by at least (3/4ths) you don't get homemade majority of members voting in a regular or special business meeting of the congregation before a call may be extended.
3. The terms of his ministry shall be for an indefinite period and may be terminated with a ninety-day (90) notice from either the minister or the leadership. A contract setting forth the salary to be paid and other conditions of the call shall be made duplicate, one copy for the minister and one for the leadership. Upon mutual agreement between the minister and the leadership, the ninety-day (90) notice of termination may be waived.
4. Any other staff will be recommended by the minister and then brought to the leadership for approval.

#### **ARTICLE VI: Amendments**

This constitution may be amended at any business meeting of the congregation by the approval of three-fourths (3/4ths) vote of the membership, provided that notice of the proposed amendment has been announced at a regular Sunday morning service and written notice posted for at least (2) two weeks.