

**BY-AWS
OF
THE EASTSIDE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**

ARTICLE I PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

Roberts' Rules of Order, Revised Edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure in all cases where it is not inconsistent with the constitution and the By-Laws of the Eastside Christian Community Church.

ARTICLE II STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirits; and these three are the same in substance, equal in power and glory.
2. We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and the New Testaments as verbally and plenary inspired by God and inerrant in the original writing, and that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and life.
3. We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and is true God and true man.
4. We believe that man was created in the image of God; that he sinned, and thereby incurred, not only physical death but which is separation from God; and that human beings are born with a sinful nature, and, in the case of those who reach moral responsibility, become sinners in thought, word and deed.
5. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins; according to the Scriptures, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice; and that all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood.
6. We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in His ascension into Heaven, and in His present life there for us, as High Priest and Advocate.
7. We believe in the deity and personality of the Holy Spirit, who convicts the sinner, regenerates, indwells, enlightens and guides the believers.
8. We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born again by the Holy Spirit, and thereby become children of God.
9. We believe on "that blessed hope" the personal and pre-millennial and imminent return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
10. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved and the everlasting punishment of the lost.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Biblical Source

"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household." Ephesians 2:19.

Principles

Based on the said Biblical source, all Christians who are reborn and saved, and who accept the Statement of Faith of the By-Laws are spiritual members of the Church. However in order to participate in the administering of the church property and business, members must also meet all criteria as stated below:

Section 1 Admission

1. Individual must be reborn, saved and baptized.
2. Individual must accept the STATEMENT OF FAITH of the By-Laws and the DOCTRINE of the Articles of Incorporation, Article II.
3. Individual must have regularly attended services in this church for a minimum of three (3) months.
4. Individual must be at least eighteen years (18) of age.
5. Individual must formally submit an Application for membership to the Church Board.
6. Upon approval of the Church Board, the applicant already baptized will be accepted directly into the membership, and the applicant not yet baptized will be accepted after his/her baptism at the earliest baptismal service.

Section 2 Rights and Obligations

1. Members shall have such rights as:
 - The right to participate in election (either in electing or being elected) of officers to administer church property and business as per Section IV.
 - The right to approve or disapprove the Church budget.
 - The right to approve or disapprove the purchase of real property on the part of the Church.
2. Member shall have such obligations as:
 - The obligation to attend all Congregational Business Meetings.
 - The obligation to actively support all aspects of the ministry of the Church: spiritually, physically and financially.
 - The obligation to participate in Church activities, and in doing so, to accomplish the commitment of the Church as entrusted by the Lord.

Section 3 Discipline

1. Any member failing to attend worship service for six (6) consecutive months shall be placed on inactive status if he/she fails to present a valid reason to the Church Board and to express a desire to maintain his/her membership.
2. Inactive member shall have no voting rights at Membership Meetings. Active membership may be reinstated upon approval of the Church Board.
3. If the life or conduct of a member is contrary to the Word of God, he/she may be asked by the Church Board for explanation, and disciplinary action may be taken in accordance with the principles set forth in the Bible (Matthew 18:15-17).
4. If a member has move permanently out of the Eastside area and its vicinity, he/she is encouraged to affiliate with a church of like faith and practice in his/her new locality.

ARTICLE IV CHURCH BOARD

The Church Board shall be composed of the pastor(s), the Elders, Deacons and Deaconesses. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Church Board shall be elected the Church Board members. It shall hold monthly meetings for prayer and business, and shall report to the member of the Church annually and at whatever time the need may arise. Among these shall officers be chosen to take charge of the various responsibilities.

A member must be willing to set a good example to the congregation, to serve the Lord through the Eastside Christian Community Church, and not to divert himself/herself to other office or regular responsibility in contrary or in a competitive position to the church and her regular activities.

ARTICLE V ELDERS

The Elders, together with the pastor(s), shall assume the overall responsibilities of the church, overseeing her spiritual interests and all work and functions. They shall make their special concern of the spiritual growth of the church and of each individual member; they shall see that spiritual gifts and ministries are exercised and maintained in good order. (1 Peter 5:1-3, Acts 20:28).

The Elders shall be proven men of God, reputable in the church, spiritually minded, having the gift of teaching the Word of God and the burden of prayer, and meeting the qualifications set forth in the Work of God, (1 Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-9).

The Elders shall meet together regularly for prayer and seeking the will of God for the church. An Elder is nominated by the Church Board according to the above qualifications and present to the membership. Upon approval of the membership, the Pastor(s), together with the existing Elders, shall, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, appoint him in a pre-arranged meeting attended by the membership.

Owing to ill health, moving out of the locality, or other personal reasons, an Elder may resign from his office and duty. An Elder should not be retained in office if his behavior becomes contrary to the Word of God, and should resign or be dismissed by the unanimous decision of the remaining Church Board members.

ARTICLE VI DEACONSHIP

A. Biblical Source

1 Timothy	3:1-13; 5:17-20
Titus	1:6-9
1 Peter	5:1-3

B. Procedures

1. The Church Board shall nominate Deacons and Deaconesses who have regularly attended services and actively participated in Church ministry for a minimum of six (6) months.
2. The Church Board and the nominee (s) shall pray together, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, for mutual confirmation and agreement before presenting to Congregational Business Meeting for approval of Deaconship.
3. Objection of approval for Deaconship made during Congregational Business Meeting must be seconded and presented in writing within one week. Otherwise approval shall be made.
4. Elected Deacons and Deaconesses shall hold office for a two (2) year term. Deacons and Deaconesses shall be re-elected no more than two (2) consecutive terms, that is, a total of six (6) years.

C. Dismissal

1. Owing to ill health, moving out of the locality, or other personal reasons, a Deacon or Deaconess may resign from his/her office and duty.
2. A Deacon or Deaconess should not be retained in office if his/her behavior becomes contrary to the Word of God, and should resign or be dismissed by the unanimous decision of the remaining Church Board members.

ARTICLE VII PASTOR (S)

Section 1 Duties

The Pastor(s) shall oversee the complete ministry of the Church. He is a member ex-official of all committees. He must accept the responsibility as from the Lord God, to equip the believers through preaching, teaching, and shepherding for the work of the Gospel ministry and for the edification upbuilding of the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-16).

He must meet the qualifications of any Elder as stated in 1 Timothy 3:2-7 and Titus 1:5-9. He must be firm believer and faithful teacher of the Word of God by words and deeds; he must know how to commit the sound doctrine to faithful men who shall, in turn, be able to teach others also. (II Timothy 2:2, Matthews 28:18-20).

Section 2 Call

A Preacher must have God's clear calling. He must devote himself to prayer and preaching. He is a full time servant of God to minister the Church. (Acts 6:4, 1 Timothy 2:7).

The Church Board shall carefully select a qualified servant of God as the Pastor. His faith practice and attitude towards work must be in agreement with the Statement of Faith and with the principles of the church. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, a Preacher may be selected among our own church, or through recommendations from other church communities.

When a choice is made on a candidate, with the clear understanding of God's will, the Church Board shall present the said candidate to the members of the church for confirmation. If, within two weeks after the presentation, no objection is expressed from the member, the Church Board shall formally invite the candidate to be the Pastor to the Church. This is the decision made solely under the authority of the Holy Spirit. The Church and the Pastor only confirm His sovereign guidance.

The Pastor's staying and leaving of the Church, shall also be made under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The final decision shall be made mutually with a total waiting period of three (3) months. In the event of action under section 3, (Charges against the Pastor, the Pastor shall be terminated by the Church Board immediately and he shall be entitled to one month severance pay.

Section 3 Charges against the Pastor

Accusations against the pastor shall be submitted in writing and shall not be considered unless supported by the testimony to at least two (2) witnesses. If, in the judgment of the Elders and/or the Church Board Chairperson, he errs in doctrine or conduct, the Elders and/or the Church Board Chairperson shall discuss the accusation with him. If no accord is reached, the accusations shall be reported to the Church Board for further action. Dismissal of the pastor shall follow the dismissal procedures of an Elder as in ARTICLE V of the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VIII SUBSIDIARY ORGANIZATIONS

Subsidiary organizations may be formed as needed for the young people, women, or others in the church in accordance with the OBJECTIVES of the Church, detailed in ARTICLE III OF THE CONSTITUTION. They must have their constitutions approved by the Church Board. A member of the Church Board, mutually agreed upon by the officers of the organization and the Board, shall server as advisor. All officers of the subsidiary organizations must be members of the church.

ARTICLE IX GENERAL MINISTRIES

A. Definition

All ministries of the Church, except those ministries within the Church Board, shall be defined as General ministries. These shall include:

- Sunday School Teaching
- Choir membership
- Interpretation
- Leading of Worship
- Ushering
- Kitchen Duties
- Clean-ups
- Transportation etc.

B. Principles

General Ministries shall involve Christians that have been reborn and saved. However, some general ministries such as refreshment preparation, kitchen duties, maintenance, transportation, audio-visuals, and lost-and-found may involve the participation of seekers. The ultimate goal of such involvement shall be to encourage participation of seekers in the tasks of the household of God, with the intent that they too might be truly saved and reborn.

C. Church Board Approval of Participants in General Ministries:

The following participants shall be subjected to Church Board approval:

- Pulpit Speaker
- Interpreter
- Leader of Worship
- Choir Conductor
- Sunday School Superintendent

ARTICLE X QUORUM

Quorum requirements for congregational business meetings shall be the same as ARTICLE IX, QUORUM OF THE CONSTITUTIONS. The quorum for all Church Board of committee meetings shall be 50 percent of its members.

ARTICLE XI AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these By-Laws shall be in accordance with ARTICLE X of the CONSTITUTIONS.

東區基督教會會務處理細則

第一條 會議議程：

在無違於本教會憲章及細則之原則下，羅氏議程條規修訂本 (Roberts' Rules of Order, Revised Edition) 應為一切會務進行之範本。

第二條 基要信仰：

1. 我們篤信獨一真神，父、子、聖靈三位一體，永生永存，本質相同，權能與榮耀相等。
2. 我們篤信舊約與新約之經文，其一字一句全部由神啓示所寫成的。原文絕無錯誤，乃我們信仰與生命最高最終之權威。
3. 我們篤信耶穌是由聖靈感孕，藉馬利亞童貞女身所誕生，是真神也是真人。
4. 我們篤信人是照神的形像被神所創造。因犯罪不單招致肉身死亡，亦招致靈命死亡，與神隔絕。人類生來有罪性，因此人屆鍵別道德責任能力時，則在思想、言語、行為上顯明為罪人。
5. 我們篤信主耶穌基督為我們的罪死，照聖經所言成為代表性或代替性的祭物。凡信他的都因他所流的寶血稱義。
6. 我們篤信主被釘十字架之身體復活、升天，如今在天上為我們的大祭司和中保。
7. 我們篤信聖靈的神性和位格。聖靈使人知罪，給以重生，並居位於信徒心中，啓化和引導。
8. 我們篤信凡用信心接受耶穌基督之人就為聖靈重生，成為神的兒女。
9. 我們篤信那“有福之盼望”，就是救主耶穌基督在千禧年前隨時再來。
10. 我們篤信義者及不義者的身體復活。得救者享永福，沉淪者受永刑。

第三條 會員

聖經引句：以弗所書 2：19 “這樣，你們不再作外人和客旅，是與聖徒同國，是上帝家裡的 人了。”

原則：跟據上列聖經，凡重生得救並接受本細則第二條之全部基要信仰者均為教會之屬靈肢體，唯欲參與本教會會務管理工作，則必須符合下列規定：

第一款 資格

1. 會員必須為信奉基督，重生得救而曾領洗禮者。
2. 會員必須為接受本細則第二條之全部基要信仰，並憲章第二項之教義者。
3. 會員必須為經常參加本教會主日崇拜達三個月者。
4. 年齡滿十八歲者。
5. 必須正式填寫入會申請書並交與長執同工會。
6. 申請入會者經長執同工會核准方可成為本教會之會員。

第二款 權利與義務

1. 權利：
 - * 有權被選為管理教會事工及財產之執事或同工。
 - * 有權表決教會之預算。
 - * 有權表決購置教會房地產。

2. 義務
- * 有義務參加所有會員大會。
 - * 有義務在身、心、靈和經濟上積極支持教會各樣聖工。
 - * 有義務積極參與教會各樣事工、活動以達成 神托付與教會之使命。

第三款 紀律

1. 任一會員連續六個月未能參加主日崇拜，而未向教會長執同工會說明不能參加之適當理由，或表達保留其會籍之意願者，應列入“暫休”會員身份。
2. “暫休”會員在各種會員大會中無投票權，但經教會長執同工會之核准其會籍得以恢復。
3. 會員之生活或行為有違聖經之意旨時，長執同工會得請該會員加以解說，並得照聖經上設定之原則(馬太 18:15-17) 給以適當之督責。
4. 會員如欲永久遷出東區，教會應協助並鼓勵其參加所遷地信仰相同及性質相等之教會。

第四條 長執同工會

長執同工會由全體牧師、長老及執事所組成，其主席、副主席由長執同工中選出。教會各項事工之負責人亦由該會中產生。長執同工會應按月舉行禱告會及各種事務會議；在年會中向會員報告會務；並視需要召開臨時會員大會。長執同工們必須甘心樂意在會眾中樹立良好楷模，專心事奉 神，並盡量避免同時兼任與教會原則相反或活動相抵觸之其他職務。

第五條 長老

長老們應和牧師共同負擔管理教會之責任，監督其靈性績效，工作效能，並特別關懷教會及每一會眾在屬靈方面之成長，使各恩賜、各職事得以適當運用及持守。

(彼前 5:1-3; 徒 20:28)

長老是神所印証的僕人，在教會中被人尊敬，以屬靈之事為念，能教導聖經，有禱告負擔，言行符合聖經上所記之各種資格。(提前 3:1-13; 提多 1:5-9)

長老們應定期聚集禱告，為教會尋求神之旨意。長老必須由長執同工會中產生，其設立是由長執同工會根據上述資格向會員推薦，經會員同意，按照聖靈之帶領，正式在預為安排之會員大會中按立。

由於健康欠佳，遷離東區範圍，或其他個人原因，長老可請求辭職。如長老之言行不能符合聖經之規定，則不得留任，應即請其辭職，或按長執同工會其他成員全體無異議之決定予以免職。

第六條 執事

聖經引句: 提前 3:1-13, 5:17-20; 提多 1:6-9; 彼前 5:1-3

選任程序:

1. 執事需由長執同工會提名。不論男女執事必須為經常參加主日崇拜並主動參與教會事工至少達六個月者。
2. 長執同工會及被提名者應按聖靈之引導同為此事禱告，相互印証及同意後，經教會會員大會認可方能擔任教會執事之職位
3. 如於會員大會中對所提名者持反對意見時，須有會員附議，並於一週內以書面表達反對意見，如無則前項認可便屬有效。

4. 執事任期兩年，連選得連任，但不得連任兩次以上(即不得超過六年)。

免職:

1. 由於健康欠佳，遷移別處，或其他個人原因，執事可辭去職責。
2. 如執事之行爲改變，不合聖經之要求時，則不得留任。應即請其辭職，或按長執同工會其他成員全體無異議之決定予以免職。

第七條 牧師(傳道人)

第一款 責任

牧師應負責督導教會之全部事工。他是教會各委員會之當然委員，必須負起神所托付之責任，以傳道、教導、牧養幫助信徒、宣揚福音、並造就建立基督之身體。(弗 4:11-16)

牧師必須具備長老之各種資格。正如題提前 3:2-7 及提多 1:5-9 所記，他必須本身堅定，忠心的以言語行爲傳授神的話語，並以正道栽培忠心信徒，使其轉而去教導他人。

牧師每年應至少在本教會事奉十個月，若遇特殊需要，經長執同工會同意後，每年事奉時期可偶而不受此限。

第二款 呼召

傳道人必須有神清楚的呼召，應專心以傳道、祈禱爲事；是神全職牧養教會之僕人。(徒 6:4; 提前 2:7) 長執同工會應慎選一位合格之神僕，其信仰、生活及工作態度必須符合本教會基要信仰與原則。在聖靈帶領下，傳道人可由教會本身產生，或由別處引導來此擔任牧養工作。在清楚主之旨意，牧師人選決定後，長執同工會應鄭重將該人選向會員推薦以徵得會員之同心印証。推薦後兩星期內若會員無異議，長執同工會方可正式邀請印証之人選爲本教會牧師。這是一項在聖靈主權引導下之決定，教會與傳道人雙方僅祇一同印証聖靈之帶領而已。傳道人在本教會之去留應全隨聖靈之指引，只須在三個月內彼此同心尋求聖靈之引導，方作最後決定。但若遇有本條第三款"對牧師之控告"情形發生(見下款)，長執同工會得立即解除傳道人事奉職份，並贈予一個月生活費用。

第三款 對牧師之控告

凡對牧師不滿之控告必須以書面陳述。除非附有至少二位以上証人之指証，此項控告可不予置理。如在長老們及/或長執同工會主席之審查中，該被指控牧師之行爲果真欠妥或有違教義時，長老們及/或長執同工會主席應與該牧師討論此項指控，若無協議，則應將此案報請長執同工會作進一步處理。牧師之免職可參閱本細則第五條，依長老免職之程序處理之。

第八條 團契

根據憲章第三條之目標及實際需要，本教會得設立各種團契，如：婦女團契、少年團契或其他附屬於教會之組織。各團契之組織條例均須得長執同工會之認可，各團契之職員必須爲本教會之會員。於各團契職員及長執同工會雙方同意下，各團契應有一位被指定之同工爲其輔導。

第九條 一般聖工

定義:

除長執同工所負職責外，教會其他事奉均屬一般聖工，如：主日學、唱詩班、翻譯、招待、膳食、清潔、交通等。

原則:

唯有重生得救之基督徒方可參與一般聖工之事奉。但茶點準備、膳食、修護、交通、音響管理、失物招領等工作，亦可由慕道友參與。其目的應為鼓勵慕道友在 神的家工作進而得以真正重生得救。

下列為一般聖工事奉人員須得長執同工會核准任用者:

講道人員，翻譯，崇拜主席，唱詩班指揮，主日學校長等。

第十條 各項會議之法定人數

會員大會之法定人數應與憲章第九條之規定相同。長執同工會各小組會議出席之法定人數應為全體人數之半。

第十一條 本細則之修定

修定細則應依照憲章第十條辦理之。