

BY-LAWS OF UNITY CHRIST CHURCH
As Amended Through November, 2017
ARTICLE I

IDENTIFICATION

Unity Christ Church is a Missouri Corporation dedicated to teach the Truth of Jesus Christ as interpreted by Charles and Myrtle Fillmore through Unity School of Christianity at Unity Village, Missouri and the Unity Worldwide Ministries, Unity Village, Missouri. The purpose of Unity Christ Church shall be to conduct services of worship, to offer classes of instruction, to demonstrate the principles of Truth and to adopt other spiritual means that, in the judgment of the Ministry, will further the principles of Practical Christianity among its members and humanity.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Qualifications and terms of Membership. Persons elected to membership in Unity Christ Church, as provided in Section 2 of this article, shall be known as Members.

Persons elected to membership in Unity Christ Church shall hold such membership as long as their ideas and conduct are in accord with the fundamental principles accepted by Unity, or until such membership is voluntarily withdrawn.

Members are entitled to the full privileges of membership, which includes but is not limited to, the following:

- Vote at any membership meeting.
- Elect members to the Board of Trustees.
- Ratify the By-Laws or any amendments.
- Vote on questions of sale, pledge or proposed financing of real property owned by the Church.
- Call a special membership meeting.
- Request in writing, that the Board consider removal of a Trustee.
- Vote on matters officially brought to the attention of the membership.
- Offer suggestions to the Minister or Board of Trustees.

Section 2. Election of Members. Individuals eighteen years of age or older may submit an Application of Membership Card after a study of LESSONS IN TRUTH and completion of a New Member Orientation Class designed by the Minister and Board. The application shall be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval. Upon a majority affirmative vote of the Trustees present and voting, the applicant shall become a member of Unity Christ Church. Recognition in a Sunday Service will follow.

Persons shall be welcomed into Church membership at least two (2) times per annum.

Section 3. Meetings and Quorum. All membership meetings of Unity Christ Church shall be held at its official headquarters on such day and at such time as may be designated by the Board of Trustees. Written notice of the Annual Meeting shall be mailed to all members' ten days prior to the date of the Meeting. The Annual Meeting of the membership shall be held in the fourth quarter each year.

Special meetings of the membership may be called by the Board of Trustees at any time that the affairs of the Church warrant them. Five percent of the membership may petition the Board of Trustees in writing for a special membership meeting stating the reasons therefore. Written notice of any special meeting, specifically the date, time, place and purpose for which the meeting is called shall be mailed to all members ten days prior to the date of such meeting. Such call must be issued by the Board of Trustees not later than 30 days after the filing and verification of the petitioners requesting the special membership meeting.

Those members present and voting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any Annual or Special membership meeting.

ARTICLE III

GOVERNMENT

Section 1. Responsibility. The responsibility for the government of this Church shall rest with the Board of Trustees and the Minister. The Board of Trustees shall be responsible for the legal and financial matters of the Church and the administration of Church property, both real and personal. The Board of Trustees shall be responsible for the policy, direction and mission of the Church. The Minister, as an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees, shall be the administrative executive of the Church, charged with the responsibility of carrying out the spiritual policies of the Church and shall be responsible for the daily operation of the Church in association with the Board of Trustees.

Section 2. Trustees and Terms of Office. The governing Board of Unity Christ Church shall consist of seven (7) elected Trustees. Each Trustee shall hold office for a term of three (3) years, or until his successor is duly elected. Two Trustees are elected each year. Three Trustees are elected the third year. Trustees shall be elected at the Annual Membership Meeting and shall take office the Following January 1st. Trustees cannot succeed themselves. However, a Trustee serving less

than eighteen months may be nominated for a full term. An elected Board member shall not receive any compensation from the ministry, while serving on the Board.

Section 3. Election of Trustees. The Nominating Committee will present the names of members to be voted upon to serve as Trustees to fill the vacancies on the Board. The number of nominees to be placed on the formal ballot for the annual election shall be determined by the Board of Trustees. Church members may offer suggestions to the Nominating Committee in writing up to thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected.

Minimum requirements for selection include:

- Active membership for at least one (1) year.
- Participation in the work of committees, teams or other form of service to the Church.
- Regular in Sunday Service attendance.
- Completion of a study of LESSONS IN TRUTH.
- Demonstration of principles of Truth in daily life.

Licensed Unity Teachers, employees of Unity Christ Church, or their immediate family are not eligible to be a Board member. No member of the Nominating Committee shall have his or her name entered into nomination for the position of Trustee.

Article III, Section 3, shall be read at the Annual Membership Meeting just prior to the time that nominations are open from the floor. The newly elected members of the Board of Trustees shall be announced by the President following the report of the election tellers. Newly elected members of the Board of Trustees shall be formally notified by the Secretary after their qualifications for office have been approved by the Board.

Section 4. Meeting and Quorum. The regular business meetings of the Board of Trustees will be held at Church at a minimum of once a month. Written notification shall be posted. Special board meetings shall be called by the President upon the request of the Minister, or two or more Trustees. Such request shall be filed in writing with the Secretary. The President may call the special board meeting, as he or she deems necessary. The Minister, being an ex-officio member of the Board, has the right to attend all meetings and must be notified of all Special board meetings. Regular meetings of the Board shall be open to the membership. Four (4) Trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 5. Vacancies. The office of Trustee can become vacant upon removal or resignation. Should a vacancy occur on the Board of Trustees, the Board

shall fill such vacancy by ballot at its next regular meeting, or in the case of emergency, a special meeting is to be called. First consideration shall be given to the nominee who received the next highest number of votes at the last membership meeting. A minimum of four (4) Trustees assenting is required to elect a Trustee to fill a vacancy. The term of such elected Trustee shall expire on the same date as the term of the member he or she succeeds. The resignation of any Trustee may be voluntarily submitted in writing to the President of the Board of Trustees. Such resignation becomes effective upon receipt.

Section 6. Removal of Trustee. In cases of reported behavior inconsistent with the qualification for Board membership, the Board of Trustees shall call a special meeting as soon as possible. Five (5) voting Trustees shall constitute a quorum. After discussion of the reported behavior, the Trustee in question shall be asked to leave and a vote by the remaining Trustees shall be taken. A vote for removal must be unanimous and shall be effective immediately. Unexcused absence from two successive regular meetings shall also constitute grounds for removal.

Section 7. Standing Committees of the Board of Trustees.

- The Executive Committee, comprised of the current officers of the Board, is responsible for the initial consideration of legal and personnel matters. Recommendations for action are made by the full Board.
- The Finance Committee, comprised of the Board Treasurer and at least two (2) church members appointed by the Board, is responsible for research, review and recommendations regarding all financial matters of the Church.
- The Nominating Committee, comprised of the Minister, two Board members and three church members appointed by the Board, is responsible for selection of qualified candidates to be presented at the Annual Membership Meeting. Nominating Committee members selected from the Board of Trustees and the Church membership may not serve consecutive years on the nominating committee.

ARTICLE IV

OFFICIERS

- Section 1. Officers. The officers of Unity Christ Church shall be elected from and by the Board of Trustees of Unity Christ Church at the scheduled January meeting. The officers shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and a Treasurer. They shall hold their respective office for a term of one year, or until their successors are qualified and elected. Officers may be re-elected at the January Board meeting for succeeding terms of office.
- Section 2. President. The President of Unity Christ Church shall preside at all Board of Trustees meetings and at the Business meetings of the membership, and shall appoint Chairpersons of all Committees. The President shall initiate and establish standing Committees, subject to approval of the majority of the Board members. The President shall have such other powers as usually pertains to his or her office, as stated in Robert's Rules of Order. In case of a vacancy in the office of President, a new President will be elected at the next Board meeting for the remainder of the term.
- Section 3. Vice-President. The Vice-President shall, in the absence of the President, perform all the duties of that office.
- Section 4. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept, an accurate record of the minutes of all Board of Trustees and membership meetings and shall attend to all official business required by the Board of Trustees. The Secretary shall be held responsible for the custody of all reports, contracts, other legal papers, minute books, and the corporate seal, which items shall be kept in the Church at all times or in a safety deposit box in such bank as designated by the Board of Trustees.
- Section 5. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall:
- (1) Be custodian of the funds of this Ministry. He/She shall pay out or cause to be paid out, funds authorized by the Board.
 - (2) Keep, or cause to be kept, a record of all financial transactions, and submit a monthly financial report at each regular meeting.
 - (3) Submit a financial report, covering the last complete fiscal period, at the Annual Membership Meeting.
 - (4) Count, or cause to be counted by the appointment of qualified persons, all funds received, and be responsible for their deposit.
 - (5) Place, or cause to be placed, the funds of this Ministry in the bank or other depository approved by the Board.
 - (6) Coordinate and delegate accounting activities to the bookkeeper and provide input to the Minister for the bookkeeper's yearly appraisal.
 - (7) Serve as an active member of the Finance Committee.

At each Annual Meeting of the membership, a financial report of the preceding calendar year shall be made. Copies shall be made available to those members requesting them.

The Board of Trustees shall have a financial review performed periodically at such times as deemed appropriate or when requested to do so by a petition bearing the signatures of at least ten members.

The Treasurer shall be bonded and Unity Christ Church will pay the cost of the bond.

ARTICLE V

MINISTER

- Section 1. Employment. It is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees to employ a licensed or ordained Unity Minister and Associate Minister, if desired, for the Church through cooperation with the placement and liaison procedures of Unity Worldwide Ministries (UWM) or the Independent Alliance of Ministers in Unity (IAMU).
- Section 2. Compensation. The compensation shall be fixed by agreement between the Board and the Minister. The Minister shall receive a yearly performance review from the Board. The results of the review shall be the basis for any change in the Minister's compensation.
- Section 3. Duties. The Minister shall be a voting, ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees on all matters except the Minister's own employment or that of a successor. As the spiritual leader, the Minister shall be responsible for the scheduling, conduct, and the content of services, classes and other spiritual activities that further the purpose of this ministry. As the Administrative executive of the Church, the Minister shall supervise, and conduct annual performance reviews of all employees. Hiring of key employees shall be conducted by the Minister in conjunction with the Board. Dismissals of employees shall be conducted by the Minister in conjunction with the Board of Trustees.
- Section 4. Vacancy. The Board of Trustees shall not take any steps to obtain the resignation of the Minister or provide another Minister before consulting with the designated official or department of Unity Worldwide Ministries (UWM) or the Independent Alliance of Ministers in Unity (IAMU). In case a vacancy occurs in the office of Minister, the Board shall officially communicate with the designated official or department of Unity Worldwide Ministries (UWM) or the Independent Alliance of Ministers in Unity (IAMU).

ARTICLE VI

CONTRACTS AND OBLIGATION

- Section 1. Trustees of Unity Christ Church shall conserve and administer the property of Unity Christ Church, both real and personal. Any questions of sale or pledge of real property belonging to this Church shall be submitted to the membership by written notice at least ten days in advance of the membership meeting at which the question is to be decided. Sale or pledge of such real property shall be made only after an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting at such membership meeting.
- Section 2. No agreements, contracts, or obligations involving payment of money or involving credit or liability of Unity Christ Church shall be made without the approval of the Board of Trustees.
- Section 3. The Board shall submit to the membership for approval any endeavor, other than normal church business, involving expenditures exceeding \$10,000.00.

ARTICLE VII

ORDER OF BUSINESS AND RULES OF ORDER TO THE MEMBERSHIP MEETING

- Section 1. Order of Business. The regular order of business of Membership meetings shall be set by the Board:
- Section 2. Rules of Order. Robert's Rules of Order shall be authority on Parliamentary law and usage of this Church unless otherwise provided by these By-Laws.

ARTICLE VIII

DISSOLUTION

As stated in the Amended Article of Agreement filed in St. Louis Circuit Court March 23, 1964 following:

“In the event of dissolution of this Corporation, or if for any reason the purposes of this Corporation should become impossible of performance, all assets remaining after all liabilities and obligations of the Corporation have been paid, satisfied and discharged, or adequate provision made therefore, shall be distributed to the Unity School of Christianity, Lee's Summit, Missouri. If the Unity School of Christianity, Lee's Summit, Missouri be not in existence then such assets shall be distributed to one or more organizations organized and

operated for similar exempt purposes or for other purposes within the purview of section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 and which have exemption from Federal income tax under said section 501 (c) (3) or such section as it may be amended or a corresponding provision of prior law.”

ARTICLE IX

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these By-Laws must be made by the Board of Trustees and approved by the members of this Church after notice in writing setting forth the proposed amendments, has been mailed to all Members at least ten days before the meeting is to be held. Such amendment to said By-Laws shall not become effective until two-thirds of the Members present and voting at such meeting shall vote affirmatively in favor of such amendment.