

BY-LAWS of North Street Christian Church
December 19, 2022

These By-laws replace and supersede all previous such documents.

Article I: Mission and Purposes

The Word of God, set forth in the Scriptures, shall be the one and only authority in the setting and the carrying out of the mission and purposes of North Street Christian Church (NSCC). By its very nature and by definition, the Christian faith is not and cannot be limited to any one place or time. It applies not only to worship services but to every aspect of daily life. All teachings found in the Scriptures regarding work, marriage, family, children, and worship are integral and fundamental to the mission and purposes of NSCC. The mission and purposes of North Street Christian Church shall be:

- 1) To glorify God in all that we do and worship Him purposefully and passionately.
- 2) To spread the Gospel of salvation through the atoning death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ to all persons as set forth in the Bible, through the preaching and teaching of His Word, worship, prayer, fellowship, and service to one another and those outside the body of Christ (SAVED);
- 3) To disciple believers into the mature image of the Lord Jesus Christ, as taught in the Scriptures (SANCTIFIED);
- 4) To reflect and manifest the teachings of God set forth in the Bible in every aspect of the ministry of NSCC, and in every service, employment or volunteer service performed in and for NSCC, and to promote those teachings (SERVE).

Article II: Office Location

The principal office of NSCC, located in Butler County, Pennsylvania, is:
220 W. North St., Butler, PA 16001

The Elders have full authority and power to move the principal office from one location to another and to establish other offices and sites where the church is qualified under applicable laws to operate.

Article III: Government

NSCC is an independent, nondenominational local church that recognizes that the body of Christ, of which it is part, is a communion of believers from every nation, people, tribe, and tongue. It humbly acknowledges our Lord Jesus Christ as its only Sovereign Head. The local church is a congregation of believers in Jesus Christ as God incarnate and Savior, governed by His laws and teachings, and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word. The government will be provided by a local group of elders, deacons, and deaconesses serving as set forth in these By-Laws. The elders shall provide for the oversight of the congregation consistent with the teachings

of Scripture. For purposes of church doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our elders are the church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

Article IV: Offices

The roles of the elders, deacons, and deaconesses will be consistent with the biblical description of their function in the local body. They will provide the spiritual and secular government of NSCC according to the Scriptures.

All offices shall be filled by members of the church who have been with NSCC for at least one year. The Elders will compile, review and, at their sole discretion, confirm or disapprove offices.

There are no prescribed term limits for elders, deacons, or deaconesses; they shall serve indefinitely unless otherwise terminated in accordance with the provisions hereof. They may withdraw from office effective upon giving written notice to the elders unless the notice specifies a later time for the effectiveness of such resignation.

There is no maximum or minimum number of elders who may serve at any time. The elders will determine the sufficient number of elders, deacons, and deaconesses to meet the church's needs on an ongoing basis.

An elder, deacon, or deaconess may be removed from office for violating the qualifications of the office set forth in 1 Timothy 3:2-12 and Titus 1:6-9 with the unanimous consent of the elders; however, in an action concerning an elder, such elder's vote shall not be counted in determining unanimous consent. Any elder that falls under the need for church discipline will forfeit their vote during the church discipline process.

Elders

The elders shall have the total responsibility to establish and oversee the efforts to fulfill the mission and purposes of NSCC. Elders will be men selected by the leading of the Holy Spirit, for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, and for the edifying of the body of Christ. The elder's primary roles are to lead and feed the flock of God. This is done through studying God's Word, teaching, preaching, praying, living in accordance with God's word, and identifying false doctrine. The elders may establish other ministries that are in accordance with spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ and doing the "work of the ministry," found in the Holy Scriptures.

Each elder must be an active member of the church, having served at least one year as a deacon prior to being selected for the role of an elder, and possess the qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.

1 Timothy 3:1-7

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-

minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

Titus 1:6–9.

6 if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife,[a] and his children are believers[b] and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. 7 For an overseer,[c] as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, 8 but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. 9 He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound[d] doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

There will be two positions filled throughout the elder board, those two positions will be teaching elders and a presiding elder.

The Teaching Elder (Pastor) shall be primarily responsible for preaching and teaching the Word of God. This elder will lead the other elders in meetings and ensure that the word of God is being discussed. The teaching elder will focus on the spiritual side of ministry and what the elders will be studying together and teaching the congregation.

The Presiding Elder will provide the day-to-day direction of the activities of NSCC. This elder will lead the elders in discussions outside of spiritual needs. This elder will pass the necessary information on to the deacons/deaconesses so they can carry out the tasks.

The same man may serve the offices of Presiding Elder and Teaching Elder, or two different men may serve these offices.

The elders shall seek to come to a consensus (unanimous decision), on all issues. If matters arise on which a consensus is not initially reached, final actions will be deferred (unless the situation's urgency does not permit the action to be deferred) to allow time for prayer, further consideration, and investigation.

The elders may establish committees to serve on an ongoing basis for purposes defined by the elders.

Deacons and Deaconesses

Deacons/Deaconesses' primary role is to assist the elders with day-to-day church administration, and attend to the church's physical and spiritual care, relieving the elders to focus on praying, preaching, teaching, and studying the Word of God. This includes any and everything that needs to be accomplished. While all members of the church are

called to serve, it's the deacons/deaconesses that will take a leadership role in assuring the serving happens.

Deacons shall consist of church members possessing the qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:8–13. ⁸ *Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued,^[a] not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain.* ⁹ *They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.* ¹⁰ *And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless.* ¹¹ *Their wives likewise^[a] must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things.* ¹² *Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well.* ¹³ *For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.*

Deaconesses shall consist of church members possessing the qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:11, *Their wives likewise^[a] must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things.*

Secretary

The secretary, appointed by the elders, will maintain the records and written materials pertaining to the formation and operation of NSCC. The secretary shall keep complete and correct records and books of account at the principal office of NSCC. The secretary shall keep minutes of the proceedings of all meetings designated as business meetings of the elders, of any committee appointed by the elders, of any congregational meeting, and a record of the names and addresses of all the elders, deacons and deaconesses.

Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer

The treasurer and assistant treasurer, appointed by the elders, shall have care and custody of all the funds and securities of NSCC and shall deposit said funds in the name of NSCC as directed by the elders. When duly authorized by the elders, the treasurer and assistant treasurer shall sign and execute all contracts in the name of NSCC. They may also sign checks, drafts, notes, and orders of payments of money when authorized by the elders. Such payments made to himself or which exceed \$1,000.00 must be approved by the elders. This excludes the regularly scheduled necessities, including utility bills or payments. The treasurer shall also prepare periodic reports and arrange for audits of financial matters for the elders as they direct. NSCC may, from time to time, submit its financials to an outside accounting firm to assure integrity and compliance.

Article IV: Application for Membership

The criteria for membership and the rights and responsibilities of members will be according to biblical standards. An applicant for membership must share a common belief in the covenant and articles of faith set down by NSCC. Regular attendance in the

Sunday service of the church is essential to fulfilling this standard unless extraordinary circumstances prevent this from happening. An applicant for membership must provide evidence of regeneration. This is confirmed throughout a 4 step process for church membership including, initial connection, pizza with the pastor, elder interview, and finally, welcome home. Each applicant for membership in NSCC will be required to sign a statement:

- 1) Covenanting to abide by the church discipline process set forth in these By-Laws
- 2) Covenanting, in consideration of admission to membership, not to bring any civil suit against NSCC, its members, officers, elders, or deacons, for any reason in any way relating to NSCC, its ministry, purposes, or activities.

Membership Responsibility:

Members of NSCC are responsible for living holy lives in accordance with God's word. Members must be true believers, they must confess Jesus Christ as Lord and the only way to salvation.

Resignation or Withdrawal from Membership:

Subject to the terms of this paragraph set forth herein, a member may resign his membership in NSCC at any time by notifying the elders in writing of his intention to resign his membership; PROVIDED HOWEVER, that no member may unilaterally resign his or her membership without the consent of the elders during the process of church discipline, being the time from the commencement of the church discipline process until the church discipline process has been concluded. The church discipline process shall commence at the time the member is notified and shall be complete upon the issuance of a written statement from the elders.

Church Discipline

The purpose of church discipline is to restore a member to a right relationship with God and His church. Church discipline will be in accordance with Scripture, including but not limited to Matthew 18:15-17; Galatians 1:6-9; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; 1 Timothy 5:19- 20; and Titus 3:9-11. The formal process of church discipline shall be as follows: Members shall follow, in gracious spirit, the procedure commanded by our Lord in Matthew 18:15–20. In short, (Matthew 18:15–20; Ephesians 4:25–32; Galatians 6:1–5; Titus 3:9–11).

Steps to Church Discipline¹

¹Adapted from Grace Community Church, GraceChurch.org

1) ([Matt. 18:15](#)). The process of church discipline begins on an individual level. Jesus said, “And if your brother sins, go and reprove him in private” (v. 15a). Here, an individual believer is to go to a sinning brother privately and confront him in a spirit of humility and gentleness. This confrontation involves clearly exposing his sin so that he

is aware of it and calling him to repentance. If the sinning brother repents in response to the private confrontation, that brother is forgiven and restored (v. 15b).

2) ([Matt. 18:16](#)). If the sinning brother refuses to listen to the one who has rebuked him privately, the next step in the discipline process is to take one or two more believers along to confront him again (v. 16a). The purpose of taking other believers is so that “by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed” (v. 16b). In other words, the witnesses are present not only to confirm that the sin was committed but, in addition, to confirm that the sinning brother was properly rebuked and that he has or has not repented.

The presence of additional witnesses is as much a protection for the one being approached as it is for the one approaching. After all, a biased person could erroneously say, “Well, I tried to confront him, but he’s impenitent.” It would be presumptuous to think that one person could make that ultimate determination, especially if he was the one who had been sinned against. The witnesses need to confirm whether there is a heart of repentance or one of indifference or rejection. Such a report provides the basis for further action because the situation has been verified beyond the report of one individual.

At this point, it should be hoped that the one or two who are brought along to confront the sinner will not have to become public witnesses against him before the rest of the church. Ideally, their added rebuke will be sufficient to induce a change of heart in the offending brother that the initial rebuke did not cause. If this change of heart does occur, that brother is forgiven and restored, and the matter is dropped.

3) ([Matt. 18:17a](#)). If the sinning brother refuses to listen and respond to the confrontation of the witnesses after a period of time, those witnesses are then to tell it to the church (v. 17a). This is most appropriately done by bringing the matter to the attention of the elders, who in turn oversee its communication to the assembly as a whole.

How long should the witnesses continue to call the person to repentance before telling the church? The elders at NSCC avoid carrying out the third or fourth stage of church discipline until they are absolutely certain that the erring believer has truly sinned, or is continuing to sin, and that he has refused to repent when appropriately confronted. The elders will routinely send a letter by registered mail warning the individual that the third (or fourth) step of discipline will be taken if they have not received word of repentance by a specific date. When this date has passed, the person’s sin and refusal to repent are made known publicly, either before the entire assembly during service or through a study group in which the person is known.

It will be the custom at NSCC, upon enacting this third step, to clearly indicate to the congregation that they are to pursue the person aggressively and plead with him to repent before the fourth step becomes necessary. That crucial and potent procedure often draws the sinner to repentance and obedience. If repentance does take place, the sinning believer is forgiven and restored.

4) ([Matt. 18:17b](#)). The fourth and final step in the process of church discipline is ostracism. If a sinning believer refuses to listen even to the church, he is to be ostracized from the fellowship. Jesus said, “let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax-gatherer” (v. 17b). The term “Gentile” was primarily used of non-Jews who held to their traditional paganism and had no part in the covenant, worship, or social life of the Jews. On the other hand, a “tax-gatherer” was an outcast from the Jews by choice, having become a traitor to his own people. Jesus’ use of these terms doesn’t mean that the church is to treat these people badly. It simply means that when a professing believer refuses to repent, the church is to treat him as if he were outside of the fellowship. They are not to let him associate and participate in the blessings and benefits of the Christian assembly.

Article V: Employment by NSCC and at NSCC Properties and Facilities

It is the policy of NSCC that all church positions, whether paid or voluntary, skilled or unskilled, and all clerical and professional roles, including those of elders, deacons, and church officers, are intended to promote and further the purposes and mission of NSCC, which include:

- 1) The furtherance of biblical principles and teaching
- 2) The reflection of the God-ordained institution of work
- 3) The honoring of the triune God of Scripture by our stewardship of His gifts and abilities
- 4) Setting an example in the performance of those duties reflects biblical principles in effort and attitude
- 5) Providing for all a biblically-based foundation and the protection of all from teaching and influence that is contrary to biblical teaching and the mission and purposes of NSCC
- 6) To reflect and promote a biblically-based division of labor between men and women, as determined solely by the elders
- 7) To reflect and promote a biblical view of marriage. The practices of fornication, cohabitation without marriage, adultery, incest, homosexuality, marriage or civil unions between two persons of the same gender, bestiality, and polygamy are all contrary to biblical teaching and to the mission and purposes of NSCC.

Accordingly, in order to effectuate and promote these purposes, the beliefs and practices of every applicant for every church position, whether paid or voluntary, skilled or unskilled, and all clerical and professional positions, including those of elders, deacons, teachers, church officers, and music and worship leaders, will be a primary consideration in the determination whether to hire, or continue, or terminate the employment or service of any person.

Further, in order to effectuate and promote these purposes, every job description shall include a statement of how the position shall further the purposes of NSCC, and shall state the biblical grounds for limiting the position to a particular class or classes of persons (e.g., men only). Further, in order to effectuate and promote these purposes, NSCC shall set forth specific due diligence and federal and state criminal background

checks and training requirements for all volunteers and paid staff working with or around children.

Article VI: Use of Church Properties and Facilities

All uses of NSCC properties, shall promote and further the mission and purposes of NSCC, which include but are not limited to:

- 1) The furtherance of biblical principles and teaching, including all of those set forth in Article V herein above
- 2) The honoring of the triune God of Scripture by our stewardship of His gifts and abilities
- 3) To reflect biblical principles in all such uses
- 4) To provide for children a biblically based foundation and to protect children from teaching and influences that are contrary to biblical teaching and the mission and purposes of NSCC
- 5) To reflect and promote biblical teaching with regard to gender and the roles of men and women in all areas of human life.

Under no circumstances are church-owned properties or facilities to be used for any purpose inconsistent with biblical principles or any activity or speech contrary to biblical teaching or any stated or implied doctrine, religious belief, or practice of NSCC. Each and every use of church-owned properties and facilities must be consistent with the church's mission of promoting biblical principles, which principles are set forth in, and only in, the Holy Bible, as interpreted in the sole judgment of the elders. All uses of church-owned or occupied properties and facilities must be approved in advance by the elders.

In addition to the foregoing, the following specific policies shall apply with regard to all NSCC properties and facilities:

- 1) NSCC properties and facilities are not to be made available for use by persons other than the members of NSCC or their families, or for any public use, unless approved by the elders.
- 2) NSCC properties and facilities are not to be made available for any public use which is in any way inconsistent with biblical teachings or principles or with the purposes and mission of NSCC.
- 3) We believe that the Bible plainly teaches that a person's gender is either male or female, is determined before birth, and remains the same until death.

Accordingly, church facilities that are designated for one or the other gender, including but not limited to rest-room facilities, shall be limited, without exception, to that gender.

- 4) Consistent with our belief that a person's gender is either male or female and is determined before birth and remains the same until death, church activities that are designated for one or the other gender shall be limited, without exception, to persons of that gender.

Article VII: Marriage

It is a fundamental and essential element of the mission of NSCC to promote and foster a biblical view of marriage. Marriage is a God-ordained institution defined by the Bible (Genesis 1:27; 2:21-24; Matthew 19:4-6). The biblical definition of marriage is a union between one man and one woman. It is the belief of this fellowship that marriage, the union of one man and one woman, is the foundation of civil society. A series of marriage counseling sessions is required before a marriage ceremony is performed. The type and number of sessions will be determined on each individual circumstance, and set by the elders, in their sole judgment and discretion.

The practices of incest, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, bestiality, polygamy, or any form of sexual deviance that is contrary to biblical teaching and to the mission and purposes of NSCC (Leviticus 18:6-30; Romans 1:26-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 1 Timothy 1:8-11). The "marriage" or "union" of two people of the same gender is contrary to biblical teaching and the mission and purposes of NSCC. It is the teaching of the Bible and an essential belief of NSCC that a marriage between one man and one woman is the only legitimate and acceptable sexual relationship. Accordingly, events for married couples, or for couples desiring to be married, including but not limited to marriage classes, retreats, and social events, are limited to couples composed of one man and one woman.

Article VIII: Miscellaneous

- 1) The corporation's fiscal year shall be January 1 - December 31 unless amended by the elders.
- 2) All by-laws of NSCC shall be subject to repeal or amendment, or new by-laws adopted, by a unanimous vote of the Elders, at a special meeting called for said purpose.
- 3) In the event of the dissolution of NSCC, the residual assets of the corporation will be turned over to one or more organizations which themselves are "exempt" under sections 501 (c)(3) and 170 (c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or of corresponding sections of any prior or future IRS code, or turned over to the federal, state, or local governments for exclusive public purposes.

We the Board of Elders of North Street Christian Church adopted these By-Laws on December 19th, 2022.

Jacob Klutinoty
Dane Kerr
Terry Hartman
Dennis Muir
Matt Eckert
George Rader