



CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Islands Community Church



ISLANDS COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Article I - Name

The name of this congregation is Islands Community Church, hereinafter referred to as ICC.

Article II – Purpose

Worship: “God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:23). **ICC** commits to gathering regularly with the specific purpose of actively glorifying God together in worship.

Equipping: “And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds, and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...” (Ephesians 4:11-12). **ICC** commits to developing Christian maturity in every believer for an effective ministry in the church and the world.

Caring: “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this, all people will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35). **ICC** commits to developing supernatural, redeeming, loving relationships among its members.

Witnessing: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20). **ICC** commits to proclaim the gospel throughout our community, unto the uttermost parts of the earth.

Article III - Doctrinal Statement

Scriptural citations in support of doctrinal statements are not exhaustive or limiting.

SECTION A: THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

We believe in the plenary, verbal inspiration by God of the Old and New Testament Scriptures, the inerrancy of the original texts, and that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and life (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21).

SECTION B: GOD

We believe that there is but one living and true God, an infinite, all-knowing Spirit, perfect in all His attributes, one in essence, eternally existing in three Persons, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4, John 4:24, and Matthew 28:19).

1. God the Father

We believe that God the Father, the first person of the Trinity, orders and disposes of all things according to His purpose and grace. As the only self-existent, absolute, and



omnipotent ruler in the universe, He is sovereign in creation, providence, judgment, and redemption. He has decreed, for His glory, all things that come to pass. He continually upholds, directs, and governs all creatures and events. He has graciously chosen, that is, elected from eternity past, those whom He would have as His own. He saves from sin all who come to Him through Jesus Christ: He adopts as His own all those who come to Him (Psalm 145:8-9, Romans 11:36, Ephesians 1:4, 1:6, and John 1:12).

2. God the Son

- a. **We believe** that Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity, possesses all the divine excellencies, and in these, He is coequal and coeternal with the Father (John 10:30, 14:9).
- b. **We believe** all things were created by Him. All things continue in existence and operation through Him. (John 1:3, Colossians 1:15-17, Hebrews 1:2).
- c. **We believe** that, in the incarnation, Jesus emptied Himself, taking the form of a bondservant, and being made in the likeness of men (Philippians 2:5-8).
- d. **We believe** that our Lord was virgin born, that He was God incarnate, and that the purpose of the incarnation was to reveal God, redeem men, and rule over God's kingdom (John 1:14, Matthew 1:23, 25, 1 Peter 1:18).
- e. **We believe** that Christ is the mediator between God and Man, the Head of His body (the Church), and the coming universal King, who will reign on the throne of David. He is the final Judge of all men (1 Timothy 2:5, Colossians 1:18, Luke 1:31-33, Matthew 25:14, 25:46, 1 Corinthians 3:13-15, Revelation 20:11-15).

3. God the Holy Spirit

- a. **We believe** that the Holy Spirit is a divine person possessing all the attributes of personality and deity. In all the divine attributes, He is co-equal with the Father and the Son (1 Corinthians 12:11, Hebrews 9:14, Romans 15:13, Matthew 28:19, Hebrews 10:15-17).
- b. **We believe** that it is the work of the Holy Spirit to execute the Divine Will with relation to all mankind and that the work of the Holy Spirit, in this age, began at Pentecost. The broad scope of His divine activity includes convicting the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; glorifying the Lord; teaching believers; and transforming them into the image of Christ (John 16:7-9, Acts 2:4, Romans 8:9).
- c. **We believe** that the Holy Spirit administers spiritual gifts to the church. The sign gifts were given during the apostolic period to validate the church. The



use of these gifts in the church has not been normative after the first century. God in His sovereignty still manifests these gifts through men as the occasion allows. The Holy Spirit glorifies Christ by implementing His work of redeeming the lost and building up believers in the holiest faith (John 16:13, Acts 1:8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, Ephesians 4:7-12).

SECTION C: MAN

1. **We believe** that man was directly and immediately created by God in His image and likeness. Mankind was created free of sin with a rational nature, intelligence, volition, self-determination, and moral responsibility to God (Genesis 2:7, James 3:9).
2. **We believe** that in Adam's sin of disobedience to the revealed Will and Word of God, man lost his innocence and thereby sin entered the world; consequently, both physical and spiritual death has passed to all men (John 3:36, Romans 5:12, 6:23, Ephesians 2:1-3).
3. **We believe** that there is no righteousness in man himself. He is spiritually dead. He cannot of himself generate righteousness, or otherwise, remedy his separation from God (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 64:6-7).

SECTION D: SALVATION

1. **We believe** that salvation is wholly of God by grace based on the redemption of Jesus Christ and the merit of His shed blood (Ephesians 1:7, 1 Peter 1:18-19).
2. **We believe** that our Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through the shedding of His blood and sacrificial death on the cross and that His death was voluntary, vicarious, substitutionary, and redemptive (John 10:15, Romans 3:24-25).
3. **We believe** that our justification is made sure by Jesus' literal, physical death and resurrection from the dead, and that He is now ascended to the right hand of the Father as our High Priest (Hebrews 7:25, 9:24, Romans 4:25).
4. **We believe** that in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave, God confirmed the deity of His Son and gave proof that God has accepted the atoning work of Christ on the cross. Jesus' bodily resurrection is also the guarantee of future resurrection life for all believers (John 5:26-29, 1 Corinthians 15:20-23).
5. **We believe** that God chose those who would be saved, the Son provided the way, the Holy Spirit convicts the hearts of man, and the man responds through belief in the Lord Jesus Christ, that He, being God, died for their sin, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:1-5, John 16:8-11, Ephesians 1:4).
6. **We believe** that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and promise and are thus secure in Christ forever (Romans 8:38-39, 1 John 5:11-13).



7. **We believe** that all the redeemed are sanctified (set apart) unto God. The process of practical sanctification is worked out daily in their lives. The conflict with the flesh, the world, and the devil is a daily battle in every believer's life, but victory is gained through our Lord Jesus Christ as we walk daily in the Spirit and not in the flesh (Hebrews 13:2, 1 Peter 1:2, Galatians 5:17-25).

SECTION E: THE CHURCH

1. **We believe** that all who place their faith in Jesus Christ are immediately placed by the Holy Spirit into one united universal spiritual body, the church of which Christ is the Head (1 Corinthians 12:12-13, Ephesians 1:22, 2:8, 5:23, 32, Colossians 1:18).
2. **We believe** that the establishment of local churches is clearly taught in the New Testament and that the members of the universal church are directed to associate themselves together in local assemblies (Philippians 1:1, 1 Thessalonians 1:1-2, Hebrews 10:25).
3. **We believe** that God gives the local church the necessary spiritual gifts, talents, and bodily function to operate as a complete body, serving to His glory as a light in the community (1 Corinthians 12:7-27).
4. **We believe** Jesus ordained two ordinances for the church: first, the Lord's Supper (Communion), and second, baptism. These have no saving merit but show the believer's obedience to Christ (Luke 22:15-20, Matthew 28:19-20).

SECTION F: ANGELS

1. **We believe** angels are created by God for His purpose and therefore not to be worshiped.
2. **We believe** that Satan is a created being and the author of sin. He is the declared enemy of God and man. He is the prince of this world who has been defeated through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and shall be eternally punished in the lake of fire (Isaiah 14:12, Ezekiel 28:11-19, Matthew 4:1, 11, Revelation 12:9-10, 20:10).

SECTION G: LAST THINGS

1. **We believe** in the bodily resurrection of all men: the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (John 6:39; Daniel 12:2; Revelation 20:13-15).
2. **We believe** in the premillennial bodily return of Christ to the earth to set up His kingdom. We believe this is a literal kingdom where Israel receives all the Old Testament prophecies promised her (Matthew 25:31, Ezekiel 37:21, 28, Daniel 7:17-27, 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 1 Corinthians 15:51-53).



SECTION H: GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND MARRIAGE

1. **We believe** that God infallibly made us male and female and declared such appointments to be good (Genesis 1.31). We affirm that men and women have been designed by God to complement each other as husband and wife.
2. **We believe** that God’s purposes for such distinction include procreation of the human race and literal fulfillment of the cultural mandate to “be fruitful and multiply” (Genesis 1:28).
3. Moreover, **we believe** that marriage is exclusively between one man and one woman. Accordingly, only heterosexual marriages will be performed and recognized at ICC. No other marital union is recognized as holy other than that which is ordained, established, and approved by God, according to His Word, the Bible.

Article IV – Membership

SECTION A: DEFINITION OF AN ICC MEMBER

1. Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, and desiring to unite with this body of believers, may become a member upon the recommendation of the Board of Elders.
2. Resident members in good standing are those who have joined the ICC congregation, attend regularly, and do not defend habitual sin.
3. Non-resident members are those meeting standards of resident members, who reside too far away to attend regularly, yet maintain contact with the church (e.g., students, missionaries, service personnel, and residents in a retirement home). They retain the rights of membership.
4. Inactive members are those who have been absent from the church for four months without manifesting interest and have been placed on the “inactive list” through the recommendation of the Board of Elders. They do not retain rights of membership and, after one year, shall be removed from the church membership by a vote of the Board of Elders. Before such action is taken, inactive members will be contacted by the Pastor or an Elder.
5. Members desiring to withdraw from membership may do so by their request. This withdrawal shall be reviewed by the Board of Elders.

SECTION B: RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

1. Every member of the church is expected to attend its meetings, to work for its growth, to fittingly represent the Lord and church in the community and to serve according to their ability for its work, both locally and in its outreach ministry.



2. Members shall endeavor to preserve the unity of the church by praying for its Pastor, Elders, and members. If at any time they find themselves opposed to the fundamental doctrines of this church, they shall not seek to disrupt its fellowship but shall quietly withdraw from its membership.
3. All resident members shall have equal rights, except those under 18 years of age who shall be ineligible to vote on corporate matters. Members of this church have no property rights. Upon termination of membership, members shall not be entitled to any interest in the assets.
4. The responsibility for support of ICC's ministry rests on its members. God desires our faithfulness in time, talent, and finances.
5. Grievances between members first will be addressed privately with grace, per the principles described in Matthew 18:15ff. Complaints or charges shall remain confidential until this has been done. Charges, when made, shall be submitted in writing to the Board of Elders for further action (Matthew 18:15-17, 1 Corinthians 6:1-8, and Galatians 6:1-2).

Article V - Church Government

SECTION A: THE CHIEF SHEPHERD

Jesus Christ is the head of ICC, the Leader before Whom all human leaders must bow (Ephesians 1:22, 23, Matthew 23:8-11, 1 Peter 5:4). He communicates His will for the church through His Word, the Bible. He gives additional guidance by specific leading of the Holy Spirit Who indwells the heart of each true believer.

He also shepherds the flock utilizing under-shepherds commissioned to equip the flock for its full functioning (Ephesians 4:7-16).

SECTION B: UNDER SHEPHERDS (called Elders, Overseers, or Pastors)

1. Elders shall equip all believers in the assembly for proper functioning, so that the whole flock may be built up toward Christlikeness and unity (Ephesians 4:11-16, John 17:11, 21-23). As representatives of Christ, and by His power and authority, Elders are to fulfill the following duties:
 - a. Equipping through the ministry of the Word
 - i. In exposition--teaching (1 Timothy 5:17, Hebrews 13:7)
 - ii. In exhortation--preaching and counseling (Titus 1:9)
 - iii. In admonition--counseling (1 Thessalonians 5:12)



- iv. By humble example--life (1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9, Hebrews 13:7, 1 Peter 5:3-5)
 - b. Equipping by Direction
 - In leading concerning new decisions (Acts 16:4, 1 Timothy 3:5, 5:17, Hebrews 13:17)
 - c. Equipping by Protection
 - i. In guarding the flock against false teaching (Acts 20:28-31, 1 Timothy 4:6)
 - ii. In refuting false teachers and scoffers (Titus 1:9)
 - d. Equipping by Willing Service
 - i. In working hard at personal Bible study (1 Timothy 4:15, 16)
 - ii. In opening his home in living hospitality (1 Timothy 3:2, Titus 1:8)
 - iii. In helping the weak according to their needs (Acts 20:35)
 - iv. In anointing and praying for the sick (James 5:14)
 - e. Equipping by raising new Elders and sending new Missionaries (1 Timothy 4:14, Acts 13:2)
 - Elders shall develop discipleship relationships (2 Timothy 2:2)
- 2. Qualifications: To fulfill the above-mentioned duties with the blessing of God, those entrusted with the duties shall meet the qualifications for leadership as stated in I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9; and I Peter 5:1-4, including the following:
 - a. If married, the husband of one wife
 - b. Temperate
 - c. Sensible
 - d. Respectable
 - e. Hospitable
 - f. Able to teach and defend the right doctrine
 - g. Not addicted to wine
 - h. Not self-willed
 - i. Not quick-tempered



- j. Not pugnacious
 - k. Uncontentious
 - l. Gentle
 - m. Free from the love of money
 - n. Managing his children and household well
 - o. A good reputation with outsiders
 - p. Not a recent convert
 - q. Loving what is good
 - r. Just
 - s. Devout
 - t. Humble and disciplined
3. Recognition of Elders

God gives gifted men to the church for the equipping of His saints (Ephesians 4:11ff.). It is the responsibility of the congregation to recognize among themselves those who are qualified to lead (Acts 6). The process of recognition shall be as follows:

- a. Any member of ICC may present one of the members for consideration as an Elder by completing and signing a letter stating how this person measures up to the standards of leadership as stated above. This letter should be submitted to the current ICC Elders for prayerful consideration.
- b. The council will prayerfully decide whether the person suggested should be regarded as a true candidate for the office of Elder. In determining this, the council will contact the nominated man to determine his assessment of God's will for him in this matter (1 Peter 5:2; 1 Timothy 3:1).
- c. If the nominated man desires the office, the council will then take a reasonable amount of time to get to know the candidate. This time also will provide for the following:
 - i. Continued prayer and fasting to discover God's will (Acts 14:23)
 - ii. A period to familiarize the man with the functions of an Elder
 - iii. Sufficient opportunity for the existing leaders to develop their relationship with the person and to evaluate his spiritual depth and character as one who might share in the ministry of equipping the saints (1 Timothy 5:22).



- iv. Any areas of life in which the man is found lacking will call for a discipling/disciple relationship between one of the existing Elders and the prospective Elder, so that these deficiencies may be remedied.
 - d. Following a candidacy period, which shall consist of attendance at three or more council meetings, the council, by unanimous consent, may present the name of the candidate to the congregation for consideration. The congregation will be given at least two weeks to opine regarding the candidate, remembering to follow first the steps in Matthew 18:15ff. if there is any objection to the nominated man. Then members may inform the council of their concerns either by talking personally to one of the Elders or by writing the church council. In this way, the members may present their concerns to the council.
 - e. Any such objections to a candidate will be processed by the Elders and the nominated man, so that any deficiencies or misunderstandings may be corrected.
 - f. When the church council is assured of God's direction and also is confident that any objections have been properly resolved, they may present the candidate to the congregation for affirmation as an Elder.
 - g. Upon affirmation by a quorum of 60% of members, and after prayer, the new Elder will be confirmed by the laying on of hands by the Elders in the presence of the congregation.
 - h. A Senior Pastor who is called by the Elders, confirmed by them to be qualified, and affirmed by the congregation, will be considered to have equal status with the other members of the Elder council.
4. Term
- a. Elders shall serve terms lasting six years. The Elders will evaluate one another each November to determine the availability of each to continue as Elder for the remainder of his six-year term, or to grant an off-schedule sabbatical, or to discipline or remove an Elder because of sin.
 - b. After completion of an Elder's sixth year of consecutive service, each Elder will take a sabbatical year off unless, due to unusual circumstances, the Elder board unanimously affirms that he should remain active as an Elder.
 - c. Members of the congregation knowing of sin in an Elder's life are to confront privately the Elder per Matthew 18:15ff. If the Elder has not acknowledged and repented of his sin, then the accuser must take one or two witnesses to confront again the Elder. If that Elder contests the accusation, the accusers must come to tell the matter to the Elders who then will continue to follow the guidance of Matthew 18:15ff.



5. No member may bring an accusation against an Elder except by two or three witnesses (1 Timothy 5:19).

SECTION C: DEACONS

1. Duties of Deacons shall include ministries of service, such as maintenance of the property, and such other assignments delegated by the Elders. Deacons serve under the authority and direction of the Elders.
2. Qualifications, per Acts 6:1-6, and 1 Timothy 3:8-13, shall be as follows:
 - a. Dignified
 - b. Not double-tongued
 - c. Not addicted to wine
 - d. Not fond of sordid gain
 - e. Holding his faith with a clear conscience
 - f. Husband of one wife
 - g. Managing well his children and household
 - h. Of good reputation
 - i. Full of the Spirit and wisdom
 - j. Women (Deaconesses) must be dignified, not gossips, temperate, and faithful in all faithful things.
3. Recognition and Term of service for Deacons shall be the same as for the Elders.

SECTION D: ORDER IN WORSHIP

1. Worship services will be conducted with reverence toward a Holy God. Respect for the place of worship, the conduct of the service, the selection of music, presentation of the message, prayer time, and fellowship all will have the aim and purpose of glorifying God and not man.
2. Congregants will comport themselves in a manner honoring our Lord Jesus Christ, avoiding idle chatter (Matthew 6:7, Ephesians 4:29, 5:4).
3. Should any congregant legitimately manifest gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as words of wisdom, prophetic utterances, or speaking in unknown tongues, that individual will do so in respect of biblical precepts governing such (1 Corinthians 11 through 14), and present that gift for the sake of building up the body of Christ.



SECTION E: POLICY FILE

1. Policies concerning various aspects of ICC governance will be posted to a Policies File. These policies will be directive.
2. Changes to any policy in the Policy File may be accomplished by a majority of all sitting Elders at any regular or special meeting of Elders. Such action shall be recorded in meeting minutes, and the Policy File updated.
3. One hard copy of the Policy File will be available in the church foyer. Also, electronic copies of the Policy File will be made available by the Pastor or other Elders to individuals requesting such.

Article VI - Official Meetings and Finances

SECTION A: MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERSHIP

1. The membership shall meet at least annually to evaluate together the progress of the church toward meeting its objectives stated in Article III, and at other times as needed. Notice of such meetings shall be given by the Elders at least two weeks in advance. All members should come humbly and prayerfully seeking Christ's mind concerning the life of the church.
2. A quorum shall consist of 60% of the church members who are 18 years of age and older. In all matters of business, the full agreement shall be sought prayerfully, although a minimum of 60% will be considered as consensus. When consensus cannot be reached, the congregation will further seek God's will. No change will be effected unless and until a consensus is reached.

SECTION B: MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS

1. Notice of regular and special meetings shall be given to each Elder at least five days in advance, so that all may arrange to attend. When an emergency meeting is required, the previous stipulation of five (5) days' notice may be set aside if all active Elders (exclusive of Elders on sabbatical or other leave of absence) on the island have signed a waiver to this effect (or have given verbal assent until the waiver can be signed).
2. All matters before the Elders will be determined by prayerful and unanimous agreement of the Elders present. Exception: in matters of the salary or discipline of an Elder or the members of his immediate family, the Elder in question must abstain from voting relating to the issue. A majority of active ICC Elders shall constitute a quorum.



SECTION C: FINANCIAL POLICIES

1. The ministries and programs of ICC shall be funded entirely by the voluntary gifts and offerings of God's people. No individual gifts to the church will be made public or the donor identified. Any other fundraising activities shall be approved by the Elders.
2. Elders' stewardship of finances includes a review of written reports showing receipts and disbursements. These reports shall be prepared semiannually by ICC's Treasurer and submitted to the Elders. Accounts shall be audited annually. Should the need arise, any active Elder may request a snapshot report from the Treasurer.
3. Acquisition and disposition of real property valued more than \$3000 shall be effected by the council of the Elders only after obtaining consensus of the membership.
4. Additional financial policies may be found in the Policies File.

