

Board Proposed Draft

(This is not the entire constitution and bylaws;
only those sections with proposed changes)

Markup in Red

APRIL 25, 2021



VERDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Amended July 2018

ARTICLE VI

Officers

SECTION 1 – Role of Officers

The Board of Elders shall constitute the official Board of the Corporation, as board of directors, and shall have governing authority over all offices, officers, committees, and boards including Verde Christian Academy. The Board of Elders shall assign officers to fill the role of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary. The Treasurer shall be elected by the church members annually as described in the Bylaws. The Chairman shall act as Chairman of the Elder Board. The Chairman will report activities to the Board of Elders and present whatever recommendations and proposals for Board action. The Chairman shall, in consultation with the Senior Pastor, develop an agenda for monthly meetings.

SECTION 2 – Officer Descriptions

The following shall be the corporate officers: The Chairman of the Board of Deacons Elders shall be President of the Corporation, the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Deacons shall be the Vice-President of the Corporation, the Secretary of the Board of Deacons shall be the Secretary of the Corporation. The Treasurer shall be Treasurer of the Corporation. All legal documents of the Corporation shall be signed by the appropriate corporate officers.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE II

Elected Officers

SECTION 1 Qualifications for Officers

- a. The officers of this church shall consist of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Deacons, Deaconesses, Clerk, Treasurer, and Head Usher.
- b. ~~All officer~~ The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary of the Elder Board shall be elected at the beginning of each fiscal year by the Elder Board. The Treasurer shall be elected at the Annual Business Meeting by ballot by the majority of members present and voting per SECTION 2 below. ~~Board members shall hold office as specified in ARTICLE III, SECTION 1.~~
- c. Elected officers shall assume office on the first day of the month following their election. Any elected officer who fails to support the work of the church or to fulfill his/her duties may, upon the recommendation of the Board, be removed from office at any regular Board meeting by a majority vote of the members present and voting. The resignation or termination of any officer shall be reported at the regular business meeting.
- d. Qualifications for serving in an elected office shall consist of the following:
 - (1) Must be eighteen (18) years of age or older.
 - (2) Must subscribe to the Statement of Faith, the Membership Covenant and the Constitution and Bylaws.
 - (3) Must be looked upon by the membership as one of exemplary Christian character.
 - (4) All officers must be members of Verde Community Church and in good standing.

SECTION 2 - Qualifications for Officers

- a. ~~All Deacons, Deaconesses and officers must be members of Verde Community Church and in good standing.~~
- b. ~~Deacons: They shall be men of exemplary Christian character who conform to the qualifications for the office set forth in I Timothy 3:2-13 and I Peter 5:1-3. They must be an active member of the Church, faithful in his attendance and tithing, and involved in the ministry of the Church. They shall exhibit characteristics of consecration, dependability, initiative, and leadership.~~
- c. ~~Other Church Officers: They shall be persons of exemplary Christian character who have given evidence of an interest in and aptitude for the work of their respective positions.~~

SECTION 2 - Officers Elected Annually

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall hold in trust all funds of the church. The Treasurer shall receive evidence of all contributions and collections from the Church Finance Committee in accordance with the approved budget. Extra budgetary expenses may be authorized by the Board except when exceeding \$6,000 per item, which then will require authorization by vote of the church. (See ARTICLE IV, SECTION 5) The Treasurer shall keep itemized and systematic records of all transactions and shall provide annual statements of account to each person ~~using church envelopes~~. The Treasurer shall render all accounting records ~~annually or~~ upon request by the Board of ~~Deacons~~ **Elders**, to a duly appointed auditor or auditing committee. The Treasurer shall also fulfill such other duties as may be determined by the Board.

- a. ~~Head Usher: The Head Usher shall select and train ushers and junior ushers, and supply them for services as needed. The Head Usher shall be responsible for the comfort of the congregation, and see that all collections are properly received, handled, and placed at the disposal of the church office in accordance with instructions from the same.~~

ARTICLE III

Board of **Elders** ~~Deacons and Committees~~

SECTION 1 - Board of ~~Deacons~~ **Elders**

- a. The Board of ~~Deacons~~ **Elders** shall consist of an adequate number of men (no less than six). ~~necessary to assist the Pastor and pastoral staff in the function and operation of the church.~~ They shall be elected to serve **by a congregational vote of confirmation, and their Elder role reaffirmed by congregational vote annually.** ~~for a period of three (3) years with one (1) year off in between terms. Ideally, one third (1/3) of the members of the Board are to be elected each year.~~ **The Senior Pastor shall serve, and pastoral staff may serve on the Board of Elders. Each Elder has one vote on the board. The Senior Pastor and pastoral staff and other elders shall refrain from voting when there are conflicts of interest.**

- a. All Elders shall be men of exemplary Christian character who conform to the qualifications for the office set forth in I Timothy 3:2-13, Titus 1:5-9 and I Peter 5:1-3. They must be an active member of the Church, faithful in his attendance and giving, involved in the ministry of the Church and demonstrate spiritual leadership.
- b. The Board of Elders shall provide leadership to the church in its spiritual life, assisting the Senior Pastor and pastoral staff in fulfilling its biblical function. ~~The Board, under the leadership of the Board Chairman, are to assist in serving the needs of the church.~~ Areas of service may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - (1) Meet the spiritual leadership ~~physical~~ needs of the congregation.
 - (2) Encourage, support and pray regularly for those serving in assigned ministry areas.
 - (3) Assist in administering the ordinances as needed.
 - (4) Nurture and train the congregation in the discipleship of others. As prescribed in Matthew 28:19-20

~~They shall visit the sick, distribute the elements of the Lord's Supper, assist the Pastor in baptismal services, interview candidates for membership, receive and disburse the Deacon's Fund, promote evangelistic outreach, and supervise the overall operation of the Church. The Board is responsible for establishing and maintaining all Church policies.~~

- c. The Board of Deacons Elders shall hold regular meetings to care for the ~~business~~ spiritual leadership of the church.
- d. After three (3) unexcused absences, a ~~Deacon~~ an Elder may be asked to resign or be removed from office by a majority vote of the Board.

SECTION 2 - Organization of the Board of Deacons Elders

- b. ~~The Board, with the aid of the pastoral staff, shall direct the business and program of the church in seeking to carry out the divine commission. ‡~~ The Board shall select its own Chairman who shall also function as Moderator of the Church and make annual reports to the Church. ~~‡~~ The Board shall have the power to create such special committees as it deems necessary ~~but shall carry on its own work of the ministry.~~
- c. ~~The Board, on a yearly basis (shortly after elections), will hold a special meeting to determine ministry needs. At this meeting, Those assignments will be accepted by each Deacon that will be the ministry for the Deacon for that year. Brief monthly reports are expected as to the progress and status of their ministries.~~
- d. **Role of Elder:** Elders are to oversee and lead the local church, teach and/or preach the Word, protect the church from false teachers, exhort and admonish the saints in sound doctrine, visit the sick, pray, and judge doctrinal issues. The Elders shall empower and inspire the congregation to grow as effective disciples and to disciple others. ~~The following are possible areas of ministry, (but not limited to them) that should be considered: Christian Education, Evangelism, Finance, Property/Grounds, Missions, Sound, VCA Representative, Social Life of the Church, Baptism/Communion/Ushering, Kitchens, Men's and Women's Fellowship, Membership Care, Couples Ministry, Home Groups, etc.~~

SECTION 3 - Meeting of the Board of Deacons Elders and Committees

A regular meeting of the Board of Elders shall be each month at such a time and place as the Board may determine. A special meeting of the Board may be held whenever called by the Chairman or a majority of the Board. ~~The committees of the Board shall meet at such times as the Board determines, or at the call of the Committee Chairman, the Pastor, or the Lead Elder. Members of standing committees shall serve three (3) year terms with one (1) year off in between terms.~~

ARTICLE IV

Deacons, Deaconesses and Special Committees

SECTION 1 – Deacons

- a. Deacons are men who are appointed by the Elder Board to assist in meeting both the physical and spiritual needs of the Church. Rather than a governance role, the Deacon ministry is a service ministry of the Church.
- b. A Deacon must be an active member of the Church, faithful in his attendance and giving, and involved in the ministry of the Church. A Deacon must be above reproach and have a character consistent with the Biblical requirements for a Deacon as set forth in I Timothy 3:2-13 and I Peter 5:1-3.
- c. Deacons shall consist of an adequate number of men necessary to assist the Pastor, pastoral staff and the Board in the function and operation of the church. They shall be appointed to serve without rotation and will be responsible for stepping down once the desire or ability to serve takes place. They shall be a servant-helper assisting the Pastor and Elders in ministering to the practical and physical needs of the church and helping members to grow in their relationship with Jesus. Specific responsibilities will be directed by the Board of Elders.

SECTION 2 – Deaconesses

- a. Deaconesses are women who are appointed by the Elder Board to assist in meeting both the physical and spiritual needs of the Church. Rather than a governance role, the Deaconess ministry is a service ministry of the Church.
- b. A Deaconess must be an active member of the Church, faithful in her attendance and giving, and involved in the ministry of the Church. A Deaconess must be above reproach and be looked upon by the membership as one of exemplary Christian character.
- c. ~~The Board of Deaconesses shall consist of an adequate number of women necessary (not less than six each) to assist the Pastor, pastoral staff and the Board in the function and operation of the church. Ideally, one third (1/3) of the members of this board are to be elected~~ **appointed** ~~each year. They shall be elected to serve for a period of three (3) years with one (1) year off in between, except when elected to fill a vacant term. They shall prepare the elements for the observance of the Lord's Supper, attend women candidates in baptism, carry on an active program of visitation, minister to the needs of families at the loss of a loved one, oversee the church nursery, and whatever duties the Board of Deacons~~ **Elders** ~~may direct. They shall be appointed to serve without rotation and will be responsible for stepping down once the desire or ability to serve takes place. They shall be a servant-helper assisting the Pastor and Elders in ministering to the practical and physical needs of the church and helping members to grow in their relationship with Jesus. Specific responsibilities will be directed by the Board of Elders.~~
- a. ~~Deacons and Deaconesses may nominate to replace any vacancies to finish the term of another and submit such nominee to the Board for approval.~~
- b. ~~After three (3) unexcused absences a Deacon or Deaconess may be asked to resign after consultation with Deacon or Deaconess concerned.~~

SECTION 3 - Nomination Process

Members in good standing are encouraged to nominate qualified individuals to the Board of Elders throughout the year for the office of Elder, Deacon and/or Deaconess. This should be done in writing as described by the Board. When the Board has determined such applicant for church office is qualified his/her name will appear on the ballot at the next Annual Business Meeting. Applications for Deacons or Deaconesses will be forwarded to the Deaconesses board for their review prior to being submitted to the Board of Deacons for final approval.

SECTION 4 - Pastor Search Team

- a. If the Elders deem a Pastor Search Team is needed, then the team shall consist of not less than five (5) and not more than nine (9) members. The Chairman of the Board of Deacons Elders and the Chairman of the Deaconesses shall serve on this committee. All other members shall be nominated by the Elder Board and communicated to the church.
- b. A Chairman, determined by the Search Team, shall preside over all the meetings of the team and will communicate their progress to the Elder Board and congregation. They shall present only one candidate at a time for the consideration by the Board of Elders. Once the Board of Elders approves a candidate, that candidate shall be submitted to the church body for approval. of the church body. In the event, need for this committee shall extend past the Annual Election in June, the new Chairman of the Deacons and Deaconesses shall be added.

SECTION 5 - Special Committees

Special committees may be appointed by the Board of Elders as it deems necessary and cease to exist when their responsibility is fulfilled.

SECTION 6 – Meeting of Committees

- a. All committees described in this Article shall meet at a frequency necessary to accomplish the goals, tasks and purpose of said committee.

SECTION 5 - Verde Christian Academy

- b. A Leadership Team shall consist of five (5) members. Two (2) will be members from the Board Deacons; two (2) are to be members of the church; one (1) member may be either a member of the church or a non-church member. The Pastor and the school administrator shall be ex-officio members of the Leadership Team.