

BYLAWS OF
Church of God Wetaskiwin

ARTICLE 1 - Name

The name of this congregation is CHURCH OF GOD WETASKIWIN, with premises at 4407-56 Avenue, Wetaskiwin, Alberta, Canada (hereafter referred to as “(the) Congregation”). The congregation is affiliated with the Canadian Church of God Ministries, and Church of God Ministries Inc. (Anderson, Indiana).

ARTICLE 2 – Interim Bylaws

In the early church, remedial structural measures were taken to address specific issues (eg Acts 6:1-7). In an effort to rediscover God’s plan and purpose for the Congregation, the most recent bylaws reviewed in February 2015 are hereby suspended for a period of 2 years beginning February 15, 2022. The following interim bylaws will govern the Congregation over the two-year period with the expectation that new bylaws will be drafted during this period.

ARTICLE 3 - Purpose

These Bylaws are for the purpose of providing the framework for governance as the Congregation seeks to live out the Great Commission of Jesus Christ and His commandments.

ARTICLE 4 - Policy

This Congregation acknowledges Jesus Christ as its head and finds in the Holy Scriptures, interpreted by the Divine Spirit through reason, faith, and conscience, its guidance in matters of faith and discipline.

ARTICLE 5 – Leadership Team

- I. Membership of Leadership Team:
 - a. Leadership Team shall consist of the Senior Pastor and three or more Directors elected or ratified by the voting members.
 - b. In the case of a vacancy on the Leadership Team, the Leadership Team may appoint a successor(s) Director to serve until the next annual meeting of the ongregation. A vacancy is deemed to have occurred in the case of a resignation, when a Director is absent without appropriate notice provided to the Leadership Team for two successive meetings, or lack of candidates at the Annual Meeting.
 - c. The Leadership Team may invite participation from regional leaders of Canadian Church of God Ministries.

- d. The Senior Pastor, shall serve as a non-voting, ex-officio member of the Leadership Team.
- II. Meetings of the Leadership Team
 - a. The Leadership Team shall meet quarterly as a minimum.
 - b. Quorum for any meeting shall be the simple majority of the Directors.
 - c. Decisions shall require a majority.
- III. Purpose of the Leadership Team
 - a. To assist the Congregation in rediscovering its role in expanding the Kingdom of God.
 - b. To coordinate the overall program of the Congregation.
 - c. To guide the Congregation in articulating a vision and living its mission.
- IV. Duties of the Leadership Team
 - a. To provide accountability and direction to the Senior Pastor.
 - b. To give oversight to the financial affairs of the Congregation.
 - c. To advise and support the Senior Pastor in the process of discerning and articulating vision and mission.
 - d. To advise and support the Senior Pastor in the oversight of all areas of the Congregation including: Christian Education, Worship, Fellowship, and Outreach.
 - e. To serve as the budget committee.
 - f. To provide oversight to the expenditure of funds.
 - g. The Leadership Team will serve as nominating committee and may appoint from the members, persons to serve on the nominating committee to present to the Voting Members, when needed, candidates for ratification.

ARTICLE 6 - Officers

- I. The government of the Congregation shall be vested in the Directors who are elected or ratified by the Voting Members, or appointed by the Directors as successors.
- II. The Directors shall hold in trust all properties, effects and assets of the Congregation, with power to regulate the use and the control of same. Acquisition or accumulation of physical assets by either purchase or donation must be first approved by the Leadership Team and shall be decided in accordance with current legislation and the needs of the Congregation.
- III. The Congregation may borrow or raise funds to meet its objects and operations. The Directors will decide the ways to raise money including giving or granting security.
- IV. The Directors may borrow only by resolution of the Directors confirmed by a resolution of the Congregation.
- V. The officers of the Congregation shall be appointed annually from the Directors and shall include: a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

- VI. The Secretary shall:
 - a. keep an accurate record of the acts, decisions and proceedings of the Leadership Team as well as the minutes of all meetings of the membership.
 - b. shall at all times comply with the requirements of the Religious Societies Land Act, including the tasks of keeping record of a list of voting members at any meeting of the membership and that this list satisfies requirements outlined in Article 8.
- VII. The Treasurer shall:
 - a. receive the funds of the Congregation and cause them to be deposited in a bank account approved by the Leadership Team that is CDIC insured.
 - b. be authorized to give receipts for all money given to the Congregation.
 - c. cause all vouchers and orders paid to be filed as part of the records of the Congregation.
 - d. make regular reports, at least once a month to the Leadership Team, showing receipts and disbursements and their relationship to the budget.
- VIII. The records of total receipts and disbursements shall be open to Members.
- IX. The financial records shall be audited annually by at least two qualified, unrelated individuals and they shall provide a report to the Leadership Team.

Official Year: The fiscal year end shall be December 31.

ARTICLE 8 – Membership

- I. Members of the Congregation are all persons who make a profession of faith in Jesus Christ, who consider the Congregation their home church, and who consistently support its ministry. In accordance with the teaching of Scripture, this Congregation of the Church of God welcomes fellow Christians without regard to race, color or national origin to participate fully and without any reservation to its fellowship and work.
- II. Members shall be deemed to be Voting Members and have the right to vote in a meeting of the membership under the following conditions:
 - a. They shall have a personal experience of salvation and testimony of faith in Jesus Christ.
 - b. They shall be 18 years of age or older.
 - c. They shall have worshiped regularly with the local congregation for a period of at least six months immediately preceding any meeting at which they exercise the right to vote.
 - d. They shall have lived, during this period of six months, in harmony with the teachings of the Church of God (Anderson IN).
 - e. They shall have signed a voter's agreement prior to being included on the Voter's Registration List.
 - f. They shall have signed the Voter's Registration List prior to roll call of any meeting of the membership.

- g. They shall be considered in good standing by the Leadership Team.

ARTICLE 9 - Congregation-Pastor Relationships

- I. Selection and Call of the Senior Pastor:
In the event of a vacancy in the position of Senior Pastor, the Directors will search for, recruit and hire an Interim Pastor.
- II. Resignation of the Senior Pastor
Should the Senior Pastor feel led by the Holy Spirit to terminate his or her pastoral leadership role, he or she shall present a written resignation to the Directors.
- III. The Retention or Removal of the Senior Pastor:
Should the Directors, prompted by the Holy Spirit, in conversation with the Senior Pastor and regional leaders, feel led that a change of Senior Pastoral leadership is needed in order for the congregation to accomplish its stated purpose, they may ask for the resignation of the Senior Pastor. Such action would require a 75% majority vote of the voting members. The Senior Pastor should be provided a minimum of sixty days before vacating the pastorate, unless other arrangements are made to the satisfaction of both the Directors and the Senior Pastor.

ARTICLE 10 - Meetings of the Membership

- I. A meeting shall be held annually to receive the reports of the Leadership Team, conduct business, and adopt the annual budget.
- II. The business proceedings at the Annual Meeting shall be governed by these By-Laws where applicable. In other cases, the current issue of Roberts Rules of Order shall apply.
- III. The annual meeting shall be held within 90 days of the fiscal year end.
- IV. Due notice of the date, time and location of the Meeting of the Membership held annually, or any other meeting of the Membership called by the Leadership Team shall be either by announcement by the Leadership Team during services of two Sundays immediately preceding the meeting or notice in writing delivered electronically or in physical form to the members five days prior to the meeting.
- V. Quorum shall be established at any Meeting of the Membership if the majority of voting members are present, connected by video conferencing or represented by a designated proxy. In the event that a quorum cannot be met, the meeting shall not vote on matters of business.
- VI. Absentee ballots shall count toward quorum, but shall be limited to the issues or decisions on the absentee ballot. Absentee ballots shall be delivered to a person designated by the Leadership Team prior to roll call at any Meeting of the Membership.
- VII. A Meeting of the Membership may be held in person, virtually or a combination therein, so long as all in attendance have the ability to hear and be heard during the meeting..

ARTICLE 11 -Effective Date

- I. These bylaws shall become effective on February 15, 2022 and shall be reviewed prior to February 15, 2024.
- II. These bylaws may be altered, amended, or replaced at the annual meeting or any meeting of the members by a three-fourths majority vote of the Voting Members.
- III. A public announcement of such proposed action shall be during services of two Sundays immediately preceding the meeting or notice in writing delivered electronically or in physical form to the voting members five days prior to the meeting. The proposed changes shall be posted as part of the first announcement.

ARTICLE 12 - Disposition of Property Upon Final Dissolution

- I. In the event of a voluntary winding up, the property of the Congregation shall first be applied in satisfaction of its liabilities, and any surplus shall be paid to Canadian Church of God Ministries, being a *Qualified Donee* as defined within the *Income Tax Act*, or such other charitable, benevolent, or other organizations associated or affiliated with Canadian Church of God Ministries and as may be approved by resolution of the members.
- II. All costs, charges and expenses properly incurred in the voluntary winding up of the Congregation are payable out of the assets of the Congregation in priority to all other claims.