

BY-LAWS
of
FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST
Allentown, Pennsylvania

Incorporated February 23, 1932
under the Laws of the Commonwealth of
Pennsylvania

Revised 2018

THE TENETS OF THE MOTHER CHURCH

By Mary Baker Eddy

The Tenets of The Mother Church are the tenets of this church and are as follows:

1. As adherents of Truth, we take the inspired Word of the Bible as our sufficient guide to eternal Life.
2. We acknowledge and adore one supreme and infinite God. We acknowledge His Son, one Christ; the Holy Ghost or divine Comforter; and man in God's image and likeness.
3. We acknowledge God's forgiveness of sin in the destruction of sin and the spiritual understanding that casts out evil as unreal. But the belief in sin is punished so long as the belief lasts.
4. We acknowledge Jesus' atonement as the evidence of divine, efficacious Love, unfolding man's unity with God through Christ Jesus the Way-shower; and we acknowledge that man is saved through Christ, through Truth, Life, and Love as demonstrated by the Galilean Prophet in healing the sick and overcoming sin and death.
5. We acknowledge that the crucifixion of Jesus and his resurrection served to uplift faith to understand eternal Life, even the allness of Soul, Spirit, and the nothingness of matter.
6. And we solemnly promise to watch, and pray for that Mind to be in us which was also in Christ Jesus; to do unto others as we would have them do unto us; and to be merciful, just and pure.

From *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, p. 497, by Mary Baker Eddy.
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ARTICLE I
CHURCH TITLE

This church shall be known as "First Church of Christ, Scientist, Allentown, Pennsylvania."

ARTICLE II
RELATION TO THE MOTHER CHURCH

This church is a branch of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston, Massachusetts and shall conform to all regulations for branch churches as set forth in The Manual of The Mother Church by Mary Baker Eddy, and the Non-Profit Corporation Laws of Pennsylvania. This authorization was granted by the Christian Science Board of Directors in a letter dated November 13, 1926, from the Department of Branches and Practitioners.

ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 1. The membership of this church shall consist of those persons whose names are enrolled in the "Book of Membership."

Sec. 2. Qualifications and requirements of Applicants are listed in the Rules and Regulations of the Membership Committee.

ARTICLE IV
MEETINGS

Sec. 1. The church shall hold two regular business meetings each year which shall be called the Annual Meeting and the Semi-Annual Meeting. An Election of Officers meeting shall be held two months prior to the beginning of the church year.

Sec. 2. Special meetings may be called by the Board of Directors or at the request of seven members.

Sec. 3. All business meetings shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order.

Sec. 4. Written notice of all meetings (which includes emails) shall be given to members at least five days prior to the meeting date.

Sec. 5 Quorum. Thirty-five percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS

Sec. 1. The officers of this church shall be a President, Treasurer, Clerk, Sunday School Superintendent, and a Board of Directors consisting of five members.

ARTICLE VI ELECTIONS

Sec. 1. Election of members shall be by ballot. If a member questions the fitness of an applicant, they shall cross out the name of the applicant and write their own on the ballot and the election shall be postponed until investigation by the Board of Directors.

Sec. 2. Voting for Board of Directors shall be by ballot without nomination. A two-thirds majority of votes cast is needed for election. An applicant must be present at the meeting or have offered a willingness to serve.

ARTICLE VII BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sec. 1. There shall be five members on the Board of Directors, who shall govern the operation of the church.

Sec. 2. They shall incur no liability exceeding two thousand dollars (\$2000.00) in excess of operating expenses, unless in case of emergency, without consent of two-thirds of the membership at a regular or special meeting.

Sec. 3. They shall appoint all committees and the Sunday School Superintendent, and approve the rules and regulations of all committees.

Sec. 4. They shall fix all salaries of church officers and employees of the church.

Sec. 5. They shall elect a President from among their members and appoint a Treasurer and Clerk who are not required to be members of the Board of Directors.

Sec. 6. Action of the Board of Directors shall be conclusive unless overruled by a two-thirds vote of the members at any business meeting.

Sec. 7. The Rules and Regulations for the Board of Directors and any changes thereto shall be approved by the membership.

ARTICLE VIII
READERS

Sec. 1. The duties of the Readers shall be those specified in the "Manual of The Mother Church" (Manual Art. III) and the Rules and Regulations for Readers issued by the Board of Directors of this church.

Sec. 2. They shall be elected for a term to be determined by the Board of Directors for a period of at least one year.

ARTICLE IX
PRESIDENT

Sec. 1. The President shall preside over all meetings of the Church and the Board of Directors.

Sec. 2. The President shall have the authority to make minor decisions that require immediate attention when the Board is not in session. The President shall not act contrary to the wishes of the Board.

ARTICLE X
CLERK

Sec. 1. The Clerk shall abide by the Rules and Regulations for the Clerk as set by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XI
TREASURER

Sec. 1. The Treasurer shall abide by the Rules and Regulations for the Treasurer as set by the Board of Directors and the regulations of the Non-Profit Corporation Laws of Pennsylvania.

ARTICLE XII
VACANCIES

Sec. 1. Vacancies on the Board of Directors or Readers of less than six months shall be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors. Vacancies over six months shall be

filled at a special meeting of the membership called for that purpose. Eligibility lists will be sent to the members one week prior to the meeting.

Sec. 2. Vacancies in other posts shall be filled by action of the Board of Directors.
(a) In an emergency, a Reader may appoint a substitute from among former readers.

ARTICLE XIII SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sec. 1. The government of the Sunday School shall conform to the Rules and Regulations for the Sunday School, as set by the Board of Directors, and be under the direction of the Sunday School Superintendent who shall select all teachers. Instruction in classes shall follow the Manual of the Mother Church.

ARTICLE XIV READING ROOM

Sec. 1. The Reading Room will operate in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Reading Room as approved by the Board of Directors.

Sec. 2. A Reading Room Librarian may be appointed by the Board of Directors as deemed necessary. Lacking a Librarian, the Reading Room shall operate under the direction of the Reading Room Committee.

ARTICLE XV LECTURES

Sec. 1. This church shall hold one or more lectures annually to be determined by the membership at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE XV COMMITTEES

Sec. 1. The Board of Directors shall appoint all committees and approve the Rules and Regulations for their operation.

ARTICLE XVI BY-LAWS

Alterations and Amendments

Sec. 1. Recommended amendments to these By-laws shall be made only upon the request of ten members, the Board of Directors or the By-laws Committee.

Sec. 2. Recommended changes shall be submitted to the Board of Directors for their consideration.

- (a) All recommended changes, approved or disapproved by the Board of Directors shall then be presented to the members at a regular or special meeting.
- (b) Each church member shall be given a copy of the proposed amendment, and of the original, at least one week prior to this meeting.
- (c) A two-thirds vote of those present and voting shall be required to alter these By-laws.
- (d) The By-laws of this church must be in accord with the Non-Profit Corporation Laws of Pennsylvania.

Suspension

Sec. 1. These By-laws cannot be suspended except by two-thirds vote of the church membership.

This By-law book is the property of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Allentown, PA. It is requested that it be returned to this church upon termination of membership.

Dissolution

Sec. 1. A recommendation to dissolve the First Church of Christ, Scientist, Allentown, PA shall be made only upon the request of 10 members, or by the Board of Directors.

Sec. 2. A three-quarters vote of the entire membership will be required to dissolve the First Church of Christ, Scientist, Allentown, PA

Sec. 3. In the event that the First Church of Christ, Scientist, Allentown, PA should be dissolved, distribution of assets shall be to other non-profit organizations in accordance with the non-profit laws of Pennsylvania. Members of this church shall in no way profit from the dissolution of this church. This By-law book is the property of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Allentown, PA. It is requested that it be returned to this church upon termination of membership.

CHURCH HISTORY

- 1897 – Students of Christian Science begin offering regular Sunday meetings in the Lehigh Valley. John Edwards helps form a society in Easton, PA.
- 1900 – Mr. and Mrs. Albert Schell of Polo, IL introduce Christian Science in Allentown while visiting their cousin, Aaron Huff.
- 1901 – A Christian Science Society forms in Bethlehem, PA.
- 1903 – Christian Scientists in Allentown begin meeting informally in the music studio of Professor Edwin Stetzel in the Eckert Building, 812 Hamilton Street. Later, the same year, they officially become a Society and relocate their services to the 3rd floor of the Guth Building, 832 Hamilton Street.
- 1921 – The First Church of Christ, Scientist, Allentown is incorporated in April. In November, 11 members form a second group and begin conducting services in the Central School Building, located between Linden and Turner Streets.
- 1923 – The new group relocates to 830 Linden Street in April, and is incorporated as Second Church of Christ, Scientist in November. Laretta Major is Clerk of the new church.
- 1926 – The two churches merge to form the First Church of Christ, Scientist, Allentown.
- 1932 – Church services now conducted in the Masonic Temple, 1524 Linden Street.
- 1933 – The Reading Room is moved to 1025 Hamilton Street.
- 1941 – A new location, 1533 Hamilton Street, is purchased.
- 1966 – Construction begins on a new church, located at 3020 Hamilton Street.
- 1967 – First service in the new location is held on January 1.