

# BY-LAWS OF THE RENOVATUS CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 22, 2017

## ARTICLE 1      **NAME**

The name of this corporation is the Renovatus Church of Christ

## ARTICLE 2      **PURPOSE**

### *Section 1      **Primary Purpose***

The primary purpose for which this organization is formed is to glorify God by forming a local congregation of the Church of Christ which will carry out the great commission of the Lord Jesus Christ as revealed in the New Testament of the Word of God (Matthew 28:18-20 and Mark 16:15-16). This congregation will provide opportunity for Christian people to continue steadfastly in the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayers (Acts 2:42), and prepare them for works of service (Ephesians 4:12).

### *Section 2      **Secondary Purpose***

A secondary purpose for the formation of this organization is to meet the legal requirements necessary for a church organization to own, acquire, and to dispose of real property. For this reason this congregation is incorporated according to the laws of the State of Washington and these By-Laws are drawn to include regulation of the congregation as a corporation as well as to govern its chosen procedure in carrying out its work as a church of Christ.

## ARTICLE 3      **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

We believe in one God, creator of all things, infinitely perfect and externally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe Jesus Christ is true God and true man. Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, arose bodily from the grave and ascended to heaven where he is our Advocate.

We believe the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to transform lives, indwell, instruct, and empower the believer for Godly living and service.

We believe the Bible is the inspired word of God, without error in the original writings, and is the final authority for all Christians.

We believe that God is active in every one and that it is his saving grace that calls all people to faith, repentance, confession, baptism, and a new life and ministry through the Holy Spirit.

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all humankind: the believer in Christ into everlasting joy, and the unbeliever into everlasting punishment.

## **ARTICLE 4 ORGANIZATION**

### **Section 1 *Autonomous Organization***

This organization is and shall always be an autonomous nondenominational Church of Christ. This church is not, nor ever shall be, subordinated in any way to any outside organization such as a state board, ecclesiastical headquarters, council of churches, missionary society, denominational body, etc. Therefore, all affiliations with other organizations shall only be for cooperation in mutually agreed purposes.

### **Section 2 *President of the Corporation***

The Senior Minister is hereby designated as the President of the Corporation.

### **Section 3 *Secretary of the Corporation***

The Secretary shall be appointed by the Senior Minister. The Secretary (or his or her delegate) shall be responsible for recording and maintaining the minutes of all corporate meetings.

### **Section 4 *Treasurer of the Corporation***

The Treasurer shall be appointed by the Senior Minister. The Treasurer (or his or her delegate) shall be responsible for the counting and depositing of contributions, making payment of salaries and other expenditures, maintaining financial records, issuing financial reports, and filing tax returns and other information required by the state and federal government.

### **Section 5 *Board of Directors***

The Board of Directors shall be the legal representatives of the corporation. All property of the church or corporation, both real and personal, is vested in the congregation, but is held in the name of the corporation. All transfers of titles, signature of notes, mortgages, deeds and all legal papers of every character to the signed on behalf of the corporation, shall be executed by the Board of Directors and shall be signed by the chairman and as many directors as required. No notes, deed or mortgages of any character shall be signed by anyone, on behalf of the corporation, until such action has been properly authorized and approved by the Church Board. No contract of purchase or sale of the real property of the corporation shall be binding unless duly authorized by the Church Board and approved by a two-thirds majority vote by the active membership of the corporation present at a properly called meeting and executed by the Church Board.

#### **Selection.**

Directors shall be appointed by the Church Board and shall serve for a term of five years, and then will be reappointed or will rotate off the Board, as determined by a 2/3 vote of church members at the Annual meeting.

#### **Removal from Office.**

A director may be removed from office at any time by a simple majority vote of the Church Board.

**ARTICLE 5      ELDERS (CHURCH BOARD)**

*Section 1      **Selection***

Elders shall be selected by the congregation at its Annual Meeting.

*Section 2      **Responsibilities***

The Elders are the final authority for this corporation. They shall:

Function as the Church Board of the corporation;

Be the spiritual leaders of the congregation, including the resolution of any disputes;

Meet with and counsel members of the congregation, as appropriate;

Select and hire a Senior Minister, subject to approval by the congregation at a congregational meeting under the provisions of Article 11;

Execute and enforce the By-Laws of this corporation;

Adopt a Mission Statement, compatible with Article 2, to provide general vision and direction to the Senior Minister;

Adopt a statement of Executive Limitations to establish limitations upon the authority of the Senior Minister;

Appoint deacons whenever they determine it is appropriate and for whatever term of office they determine, and

Select one of the elders to serve as Chairman of the Church Board.

*Section 3      **Qualifications***

The qualifications for elders of this congregation shall be in accordance with those listed in Chapter 3 of the first book of Timothy and Chapter 1 of the book of Titus.

*Section 4      **Nomination***

The church members shall nominate candidates for the ministry of Elder and the nominees shall be elected by the congregation at its Annual Meeting. To be elected by the congregation, the nominee must receive a positive vote from three-quarters of the members present at the meeting.

*Section 5      **Term of Office***

An elder shall serve for a term of five years and then reaffirmed by a 2/3 vote of the church members at the Annual meeting, or rotate out of that position.

*Section 6*      **Removal from Office**

Whenever the Elders determine that an elder should be removed from his ministry as an elder, they shall notify the Senior Minister and members of the congregation within seven days of their decision.

*Section 7*      **Filling of Vacancies**

If an elder resigns or is removed from office, the Elders may appoint another individual to serve as an elder until the next congregational meeting, as long as that individual meets the qualifications set forth in Section 3.

*Section 8*      **Leadership Team**

During any period in which there are less than two elders, the Senior Minister shall appoint a leadership team to serve as the Church Board until two or more elders have been elected.

**ARTICLE 6      SENIOR MINISTER**

*Section 1*      **Responsibilities**

The Senior Minister is responsible for each staff member and all day-to-day operations of the organization, subject to the Mission Statement and Statement of Executive Limitations adopted by the Church Board under Section 2 of Article 5.

*Section 2*      **Qualifications**

The qualifications for the Senior Minister shall include those listed in Chapter 3 of the first book of Timothy and Chapter 1 of the book of Titus. Any other qualifications shall be determined by the Church Board.

*Section 3*      **Selection**

The Church Board shall nominate a candidate for the position of Senior Minister and he shall be elected by the congregation at a Special Meeting called for that purpose. To be elected by the congregation, the nominee must receive a positive vote from three-quarters of the members present at the meeting.

*Section 4*      **Removal from Office**

Whenever the Church Board determine that the Senior Minister should be removed from ministry as the Senior Minister, they shall notify the Senior Minister and members of the congregation within seven days of their decision.

**ARTICLE 7      ASSOCIATE MINISTERS**

*Section 1*      **Responsibilities**

The responsibilities of each Associate Minister shall be defined by the Senior Minister and shall be given to each Associate Minister in writing.

*Section 2*      **Qualifications**

The qualifications for an Associate Minister shall include those listed in Chapter 3 of the first book of Timothy and Chapter 1 of the book of Titus. Any other qualifications shall be determined by the Senior Minister.

*Section 3*      **Selection**

The Senior Minister shall select all Associate Ministers, after consultation with the Church Board.

*Section 4*      **Removal from Office**

The Senior Minister may remove an Associate Minister from office, after consultation with the Church Board.

**ARTICLE 8      NONMINISTERIAL STAFF**

*Section 1*      **Responsibilities**

The responsibilities of each staff member shall be defined by the Senior Minister (or his delegate) and shall be given to each staff member in writing.

*Section 2*      **Qualifications**

The qualifications of each staff position shall be determined by the Senior Minister (or his delegate).

*Section 3*      **Selection**

The Senior Minister (or his delegate) shall select all non-Ministerial members of the staff.

*Section 4*      **Removal from Office**

The Senior Minister may remove a non-Ministerial staff member.

**ARTICLE 9      ORDINATION OF MINISTERS**

The Church Board may ordain or commission into Christian ministry anyone qualified and accepted for ministry in accordance with Titus and 1 Timothy, and any additional requirements for ordination as may be adopted by the Church Board.

**ARTICLE 10      MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION**

*Section 1*      **Responsibilities**

Each member of the congregation is expected to know and share their spiritual journey, attend worship assemblies, study the Holy Scriptures, contribute financially according to their ability, understand the value of making disciples, and be involved in (or preparing for) one of the ministries of the congregation.

*Section 2*      **Qualifications**

All members must have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and agree with the Statement of Faith as set forth in Article 3.

*Section 3*      **Selection**

An individual who meets the qualifications of Section 2, shall become a member of this church upon request to the Senior Minister, an Associate Minister, or the Chairman of the Church Board.

*Section 4*      **Removal from Membership**

An individual may be removed from membership by personal choice or by the Church Board.

*Section 5*      **Records of Membership**

The Secretary of the Corporation (or his or her delegate) shall maintain a membership roll.

**ARTICLE 11      FINANCES**

*Section 1*      **Establishment of Bank Accounts**

The Treasurer of the corporation (or his or her delegate) is authorized to open bank accounts on behalf of the corporation, as needed.

*Section 2*      **Development of Annual Budget**

The Senior Minister is responsible for developing a proposed Annual Budget and presenting it to the Church Board no later than November 15 of each calendar year.

*Section 3*      **Approval of Annual Budget**

The Annual Budget shall be approved by the Church Board.

*Section 4*      **Approval of Budgeted Expenditures**

The Senior Minister (or his delegate) is responsible for approval of all expenditures, except as provided in Section 5.

*Section 5*      **Approval of Unbudgeted Expenditures**

Unbudgeted expenditures which exceed 10 percent of the approved Annual Budget must be approved by the Church Board.

*Section 6*      **Financial Reports**

The Treasurer (or his or her delegate) shall prepare monthly and annual reports of income and expenditures and shall submit such reports to the Senior Minister and the Chairman of the Church Board.

*Section 7*      ***Audit of Financial Records and Procedures***

The Church Board shall periodically, at their discretion, hire (or appoint) an auditor to audit the financial records and accounting procedures of the church.

**ARTICLE 12      CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS**

*Section 1*      ***Annual Meetings***

Beginning in the fourth calendar year following incorporation, the congregation shall meet at least once a year to elect or reaffirm Elders and/or Board of Director members.

Every member shall be notified by mail (USPS or electronic) of the annual meeting, including a list of topics on the agenda, not less than ten days prior to the annual meeting.

The Chairman of the Church Board (or his delegate) shall prepare the agenda and conduct the meeting.

*Section 2*      ***Special Meetings (General)***

Special meetings of the congregation may be called only by the Church Board.

Every member shall be notified by mail (USPS or electronic) of each special meeting, including a list of topics on the agenda, not less than ten days prior to the special meeting.

The Chairman of the Church Board (or his delegate) shall prepare the agenda and conduct the meeting.

**ARTICLE 13      REAL PROPERTY**

This corporation shall not purchase, sell, or exchange real property unless such action is approved by a majority vote of those present at a congregational meeting called in accordance with Article 12.

**ARTICLE 14      DISSOLUTION**

On the winding up and dissolution of this corporation, after paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligations of the corporation, the remaining corporate assets shall be distributed to Kairos Church Planting Support, a Oregon corporation that is exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. In the event that Kairos Church Planting Support is not in existence or is not a qualified distribute or is unwilling or unable to accept the distribution, the remaining corporate assets shall be distributed to the Vancouver Church of Christ, a Washington corporation that is exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. In the event that both Kairos Church Planting Support and the Vancouver Church of Christ are not in existence or are not qualified distributees or are unwilling or unable to accept the distribution, the Church Board shall distribute the remaining corporate assets to another fund, foundation or organization organized and operated exclusively for the purposes specified in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**ARTICLE 15      AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS**

These By-Laws may be amended at any meeting of the congregation if the following has been satisfied:

    The agenda for the meeting listed Amendment of the By-Laws as a topic of the meeting, and

    The written notification to members included the text of the proposed amendments.

Any change in By-Laws must receive a positive vote by two-thirds of those members present, and shall take immediate effect.