

# **QUARRY COMMUNITY CHURCH**

## **CONSTITUTION**

**Adopted  
August 2002**

**Amended April 2008**

**Amended Oct 2019**

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## CONSTITUTION

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**ARTICLE I: Name and Incorporation**

**NAME**

The name of this organization shall be Quarry Community Church (hereafter sometimes referred to as “Quarry Church”, “Quarry”, or “QCC”).

**INCORPORATION**

Quarry Community Church was incorporated under and pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 317a of Minnesota Statutes on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 2001.

**ARTICLE II: Mission, Vision, and Values**

The purpose of Quarry Community Church is to glorify God by reaching people with the gospel and encouraging them to develop an intimate and contagious relationship with Jesus.

The vision for Quarry Community Church is to be a community of people committed to growing together in an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ while leading others to Him.

Quarry’s Core Values lie at the heart of our identity, do not change over time, and are readily lived out by our people. They are what make us unique and form the foundation on which we fulfill our mission.

The CORE Values of Quarry Community Church are:

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Everyone Matters:    | All people matter to us because all people matter to God. (Luke 15)  |
| Bring Your Best:     | We honor God and inspire people through our best efforts. (Malachi 1:6-14)   |
| Right Relationships: | We are intentional about reconciling people to God and people to people. (Mathew 18:15-17, 2 Corinthians 5:18)                     |
| Live by the Truth:   | We will strive to live by the truth of scripture and lovingly encourage one another to do the same. (1 John 2:3-6, Proverbs 27:17) |
| Healthy Tension:     | We are committed to teaching all of scripture and we welcome Godly discussion of difficult topics. (2 Timothy 3:14-17)             |

**ARTICLE III: The Quarry Community Church Contract**

With the desire to glorify God, we contract to bring The Mission, The Vision and The CORE Values of the Quarry Community Church to the forefront of our lives.

#### **ARTICLE IV: Statement of Faith**

We believe that the Bible is the verbally and totally inspired Word of God. The Bible is our supreme and final authority in faith and life. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21)

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1:1, 26; Matthew 28:19; John 1:1, 3; 4:24; Acts 5:3, 4; Romans 1:20; Ephesians 4:5, 6; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary, and is true God and true man. (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; Romans 9:5; Titus 2:13)

We believe that man was created in the image of God, that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death which is separation from God, and that all human beings become guilty sinners in thought, word, and deed. (Genesis 1:26, 27; 3:1-24; Romans 3:25; 5:12-18; 1 John 1:8)

We believe that the Lord Jesus died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a substitutionary sacrifice, that He rose victorious from the grave on the third day, and that all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood. (Isaiah 53; Matthew 20:18; John 3:16; Romans 3:24-26; 5:1; 1 Corinthians 15:3, 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 1:7; 1 John 2:2; Matthew 28:6; Romans 10:9 and 1 Corinthians 15:14)

We believe in the personal and visible return of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17)

We believe that all who come by grace through faith to accept the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become children of God, having direct relations with God through Jesus Christ. (John 3:3, 5; 1:12, 13; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23; Ephesians 2:8, 9)

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting joy of the saved and eternal separation from God for those who are unsaved. (John 5:28-29; 1 Corinthians 15; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 20:4-6; 11-15)

We believe that all Christians are indwelt and baptized by the Holy Spirit when they receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. We believe that water baptism by immersion is a biblical testimony of the professed believer in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:28-41, 47; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 8:36-40; 10:47; 18:8; Romans 6:3, 4; 1 Corinthians 12:13)

We believe that those who partake of the Lord's Supper should be regenerate believers, walking in fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 2:42-46; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29)

We believe in the universal church, composed of all regenerated believers of any race or nation and that each church is independent, being free from undue interference from any outside authority. We believe in the local church, consisting of a group of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a profession of faith, and associated for worship, work and fellowship. (Matthew 28:17-20; Acts 2:41-42; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31)

## **ARTICLE V: Affiliation**

We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperation with one another in a denominational organization. Quarry Community Church shall maintain affiliation with the Converge North Central (CNC) and Converge and may maintain additional affiliations.

## **ARTICLE VI: Membership**

### **ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP**

New members shall be welcomed into the membership of QCC contingent upon:

- confessing faith in Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord of their life;
- giving public profession of a personal faith in Jesus Christ by being baptized following conversion;
- having completed orientation classes as designated by the Governing Board;
- adhering to the doctrine, ministry, and values of the church; and
- receiving the recommendation of the Governing Board or its designee after a personal interview;
- church ratification of the Governing Board's action by accepting the prospective members into membership at the next business meeting.

Pastoral staff members, who qualify for membership, shall automatically be accepted into membership.

### **DURATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

Membership shall last one year and can be renewed by making a reaffirmation of The Quarry Community Church's Contract (ARTICLE III) to another member of the congregation. This shall occur each year at the winter business meeting or at times designated by the Governing Board.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES**

With the privilege of membership come certain duties and responsibilities. As enabled by God to do so, members are strongly encouraged to:

- Worship God together on a weekly basis;
- Get to know God through personal time in prayer and Bible study;
- Give sacrificially to our shared mission with tithing as a norm;
- Use their gifts in service;
- Participate in small groups for fellowship, discipleship, and outreach.

### **REMOVAL FROM MEMBERSHIP**

Members may be removed from the membership for the following reasons:

- **Resignation** - Resignations shall be in writing/email/text to the Governing Board and referred to the church for disposition at the next business meeting.
- **Church Change** - Admission to membership in another church.
- **Disciplinary Reasons** - Members will be removed for disciplinary reasons upon recommendation from the Governing Board and a two-thirds vote by written or electronic ballot of the members present at a regular or special business meeting of the congregation.
- **Non Renewal** - Each year members will be given a choice to renew their membership. The choice to not renew will be honored.

## **DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS**

**Authority** - Christians are admonished not to continue in sin (Romans 6:1). Sin in the believer's life is to be confessed and forsaken in accordance with 1 John 1:9 and Proverbs 28:13. In the event of persistent unrepentant sin or offenses against the church, action shall be initiated to correct the sinning member(s). Offenses requiring discipline that may eventually result in exclusion from membership, church office, or staff position include but are not limited to:

- Sins of human character that obscure the holiness of God such as moral impurity, perversion, covetousness, and idolatry (1 Corinthians 5:11);
- Sins of divisiveness that bring confusion and schism to the work of the church (Romans 17:17);
- Sins that violate the truth of God by promoting false doctrine (2 Peter 2:1-3).

This shall be done with a concern for redemption and reconciliation rather than punishment and ostracism.

**Method** - Matthew 18:15-20 instructs the church in the method of discipline, and Galatians 6:1-2 indicates that all church discipline should be conducted privately with love. Disciplinary action against a member who persists in sin, or an offense, will be initiated upon receipt by the Governing Board of a written complaint by at least two witnesses. The Governing Board shall carefully investigate the complaint, inquiring of both the accuser and the accused while attempting to effect proper understanding and restoration. If all reasonable efforts by the Governing Board fail to resolve the issue, necessary disciplinary action will be initiated which may result in exclusion from membership.

If the dismissed member repents, application will again be considered for membership. The dismissed member will also be encouraged to make restitution, if possible.

## **ARTICLE VII: Church Staff**

### **LEAD PASTOR**

The Lead Pastor is responsible to provide leadership and oversee the direction, thrust, and ministry of the entire church, including its priorities and spiritual vitality. He/She shall be the spiritual leader of the church, and shall preach and teach the Word, lead public church services, administer ordinances, and lead its members in a practical Christian life.

He/She shall be a voting member of the Governing Board and an ex-officio member of all church organizations, and shall strive to establish and accomplish objectives in conjunction with the various organizations.

He/She shall direct the church staff; provide counsel, encouragement and Christian discipline, so as to assist in the accomplishment of objectives for each staff member. All staff are responsible to the lead pastor either directly or through another staff member he/she shall delegate.

**Qualifications for Lead Pastor:**

The qualifications of the Lead Pastor shall be as set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7. He/She shall be sympathetic and cooperative with the Converge Worldwide and CNC. The person must be in agreement with the Statement of Faith and The Quarry Community Church Contract. He/She shall also meet the qualifications specified for "pastoral staff".

**Establishment of Lead Pastor Relationship:**

Upon recommendation of a Calling Committee, the congregation shall issue a call contingent on a 75% affirmative written or electronic ballot of voting members present at a business meeting or by proxy following proper notice as allowed under Article X.

Proper Notice: Notice and purpose of the meeting shall be both mailed and sent by electronic mail (when possible) to members at least ten days prior as well as publicly addressed during a worship service at least two Sundays prior to the Business Meeting.

**Dissolution of Lead Pastor Relationship:**

Resignation shall be in writing (letter/text/email) and received by the Governing Board. There shall be at least 30 days' notice unless the Governing Board shall agree otherwise.

A pastoral relationship may be dissolved as a result of grievances, but only after the Governing Board has made every reasonable effort to resolve the grievances with the Lead Pastor. Reasonable effort must include providing CNC the opportunity to investigate and render finding on any alleged grievance. Full cooperation with CNC must be provided by Governing Board, Quarry Staff, and Lead Pastor to allow their ability to render their findings. CNC's findings shall be presented to the membership by CNC if further action is taken for dissolution of the Lead Pastor.

Dissolution of a pastoral relationship may be addressed by any of the following processes:

- A request for the Pastor's resignation may be made by recommendation of the majority of the Governing Board or through a petition signed by at least twenty-five percent of the eligible voting membership and then the pastoral relationship may be dissolved through ballot vote by a majority of eligible voting members present at a duly called business meeting. Notice and purpose of the meeting shall be both mailed and sent by electronic mail (when possible) to members at least ten days prior as well as by bulletin at least two Sundays prior to the Business Meeting.
- Should a recommendation by the Governing Board or a membership petition for resignation be overruled by the membership of the church, all Governing Board

Members signing the petition or voting for recommending resignation shall automatically relinquish their office.

## **PASTORAL STAFF**

The Lead Pastor shall hire other pastors in positions designated by the Governing Team.

The hiring (as provided for by the budget), or removal of Pastoral Staff members shall be made by the Lead Pastor in consultation with the Governing Team. The Governing Team shall determine the aspects and nature of any severance packages.

The titles and duties of the Pastoral Staff members shall be determined at the time of the hire by the Lead Pastor or his/her designate in consultation with the Governing Board. They shall be responsible to the Lead Pastor or his/her designate to carry out specific areas of ministry.

A Pastoral Staff Position may be dissolved by action of the Lead Pastor in consultation with the Governing Board.

Resignations of Pastoral Staff members shall be received in written form by the Lead Pastor or Governing Board. There shall be at least 30 days notice unless the Governing Board shall agree otherwise.

Each Pastoral Staff shall strive “to equip the saints for the work of ministry” as they work.

Each Pastoral Staff member may be designated as an ex-officio member or leader of one or more church organizations and ministries by the Lead Pastor.

### **Qualifications for Pastoral Staff**

- Must agree to meet membership requirements;
- Must subscribe to and affirm the Statement of Faith and Quarry Community Church Contract;
- Must give generously and sacrificially to our shared mission;
- Must strive to meet the Biblical Standards for church leaders (1 Timothy 3);
- Must possess experience, education and abilities as deemed appropriate by the Governing Board.

## **SUPPORT STAFF**

Support Staff includes Program Staff, Business Staff, Secretarial Staff, Custodial Staff, Pastoral Interns, Pastoral Staff Assistants and Paraprofessionals, Musicians and temporary help.

All Support Staff shall be hired by the Lead Pastor with consultation with the Governing Board, or his/her designate, on terms established by the Governing Board.

The titles and duties of the Support Staff shall be determined at the time of hiring by the Governing Board, and they shall be responsible to the Lead Pastor or his/her designate to carry out specific areas of ministry.

A Support Staff person may be dismissed by the Lead Pastor or his/her designate in consultation with the Governing Board. The terms of dismissal shall be established by the Governing Board.

Resignations of Support Staff members shall be received by the Lead Pastor or his/her designate. There shall be at least two weeks notice unless the Governing Board agrees otherwise.

#### **Qualifications for Support Staff**

- Must agree to meet membership requirements;
- Must subscribe to and affirm the Statement of Faith and Quarry Community Church Contract as deemed appropriate by the Lead Pastor;
- Must possess experience, education and abilities as deemed appropriate by the Lead Pastor or his/her designate.

### **ARTICLE VIII: Governing Board and other Church Leaders**

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. The church membership will hire a Lead Pastor and elect (6) people whom together comprise the Governing Board and shall be responsible for the general oversight of the affairs of the church in accordance with the Constitution.

#### **GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS**

Governing Board Members shall:

- be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church membership;
- evaluate goals and objectives through the lens of the QCC's mission, vision, missions and values;
- hold the Lead Pastor accountable for all stated, approved goals from the annual report;
- propose budget for approval;
- annually appraise the ministry and salary of the Lead Pastor;
- annually evaluate and establish the ministry and salary of other staff members in conjunction with the review done by the Lead Pastor;
- evaluate and may authorize any single expenditure (not included in the General Budget) exceeding 1% of the annual budget. Any expenditure(s) that cumulatively exceeds 3% of the total annual budget must have prior congregational approval; and
- annually appraise that the church maintains the distinctive values found in Article II.

**Governing Board Chairperson** - The Governing Board Chairperson shall:

- conduct the Lead Pastor's annual review;

- annually be nominated and elected to a one year term by the Governing Board (from within its members);
- preside over all business meetings of the church;
- serve as the chairperson of the Governing Board;
- be a person of proven spiritual leadership able to maintain a spirit of Christian love at all business meetings; and
- be familiar with the constitution of the church and with Robert's Rules of Order.

**Qualifications for Governing Board Member** – A Governing Board member shall be:

- an active member in good standing;
- one who is seeking to live as a completely committed Christ follower;
- one who subscribes to the Statement of Faith and Quarry Community Church Contract;
- one who affirms the values of 1 Timothy 3:2-7 (faithful, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money... and Galatians 5:22 & 23 “the fruit of the spirit”);
- at least twenty one (21) years of age; and
- one who attends worship services regularly.

**Terms** – Governing Board members shall serve a term of two years and be eligible for reelection to a second and third two year term after which they shall be ineligible to serve as a Governing Board member for one year. Six months or more of serving during an elective church year constitutes one year for purposes of these restrictions.

**Dissolution of Term** – A Governing Board relationship may be dissolved as the result of grievance(s), but only after the Governing Board has made every effort to resolve the grievance(s). In the event the Governing Board has lost confidence in one of its Board members, his/her term can be brought to a membership vote by a simple majority vote of the Governing Board.

The membership may initiate the dissolution of a Governing Board member by:

- a petition signed by at least twenty-five percent of the eligible voting membership from the congregation,
- and Governing Board Membership may be dissolved through ballot vote by a majority of eligible voting members present at a duly called business meeting or by Proxy as allowed in Article X. Notice and purpose of the meeting shall be both mailed and sent by electronic mail (when possible) to members at least ten days prior as well as by bulletin at least two Sundays prior to the Business Meeting.

**Vacancies** – Vacancies occurring during the church year may be filled for the unexpired term at any business meeting. Nominees to fill these vacancies shall be presented by the Nominating Committee.

**Meetings** – Governing Board shall determine the time and plan of their regular meetings (must be able to be seen and heard). They shall meet regularly (not less than quarterly). Special meetings may be called at the request of the Governing Board Chairperson and Lead Pastor. All Governing Board Members must be notified.

**Quorum** - A simple majority of the elected Governing Board members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

## **OTHER LEADERS**

**Governing Board Clerk** – The Governing Board Clerk shall:

- be selected by the Governing Board;
- be a church member;
- keep minutes of all congregational and Governing Board meetings;
- collect all Leadership Board minutes and make them available for the Governing Board;
- keep a register of the membership of the church;
- have access to all Quarry records (except personal financial giving records);
- facilitate other administrative duties as directed by the chair; and
- serve a two-year term and be eligible for reappointment.

## **Treasurer – Treasurers**

The Treasurers shall consist of at least two (2) church members nominated by the Nominating Committee and approved by the church membership to serve for a period of two years with each member elected in alternate years. The Treasurers shall:

- keep a record of all financial contributions;
- send financial statements of gifts made during the calendar year to each contributor on record;
- keep an accurate account of all bank deposits;
- serve as a member of the Finance Board under the leadership of the Business Leader;
- meet with the Lead Pastor and Governing Board as necessary; and
- serve a two year term and be eligible for re-election.

## **ARTICLE IX: Church Organizations**

### **LEADERSHIP TEAM**

The Leadership Team is a group of staff (paid or unpaid) who are leading major initiatives within Quarry, whom the Lead Pastor appoints to work at planning, direction, oversight and management of the church's ministry and day to day affairs.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The Nominating Committee shall consist of at least two (2) church members elected from the membership of the church at large. Joining these members shall be the Lead Pastor as well as a Governing Board member appointed by the Governing Board, both of whom will be regular voting members.

**Selection:** Recommendations for the three members at large will be made by the current Nominating Committee to the Governing Board and pastoral staff for review and approval. Those recommended and approved will then be contacted by the current Nominating Committee to apprise them of the responsibilities of the Nominating Committee and to determine their willingness to serve. Members of the Nominating

Committee shall display a Spirit-filled life, demonstrate a servant's heart, possess leadership ability, knowledge of the congregation, and recognize the need to be above reproach.

**Election:** The Nominating Committee shall post the names of the nominees consenting and qualified to serve two weeks prior to the annual elections.

**Length of Service:** Nominating Committee members shall serve a term of two years and shall be eligible for re-election to a second term. After serving a second consecutive term, a Nominating Committee member will be ineligible to serve for one year.

**Vacancies:** If the number of Nominating Committee members elected from the church at large falls below three, the current Nominating Committee shall replace the needed Nominating Committee member(s) by recommending to the pastoral staff and Governing Board, appropriate candidate(s) for approval. The Leadership Team and the Governing Board will then vote for the Nominating Committee replacement. A successful outcome requires a two-thirds affirmative vote.

**Responsibilities:** The Nominating Committee shall:

- consider and review the credentials of possible candidates to the positions of the Governing Board, Treasurer, Audit Committee, and Nominating Committee;
- clear candidates with the existing Leadership Team;
- nominate candidates for the election and post a slate of candidates two weeks prior to the annual election;
- announce election results at Business Meeting;
- fill any vacancies as they occur during the year; and
- receive and prayerfully consider any suggestions from members of the congregation for nomination to church office.

## **CALLING COMMITTEE**

The Calling Committee shall be activated for the calling of the Lead Pastor.

**Selection:** The committee shall consist of at least five (5) active church members and one (1) Governing Board member. The Calling Committee which will accurately represent the membership and vision of the church, shall be appointed by the Governing Board and approved by the church at a business meeting.

**Responsibilities:** The Calling Committee shall:

- find a candidate for the position of Lead Pastor and bring its recommendation to the Governing Board for approval;
- in consultation with the Governing Board formulate the terms of the call;
- together with the Governing Board recommend the acceptable candidate to the church for approval at a business meeting called for the purpose of calling a Lead Pastor; and
- installation of the new Lead Pastor ends the responsibilities and continuation of this committee.

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The Audit Committee shall consist of at least two (2) church members nominated by the Nominating Committee and approved by the church to serve for a period of two years with each member elected in alternate years. The Audit Committee shall review the financial records of the church and shall submit a written report of findings at the Regular Winter Meeting of the church and at such other times as the Governing Board may direct.

## **ARTICLE X: Meetings and Elections**

### **PUBLIC MEETINGS**

**Weekly Worship** – The church shall meet weekly for worship and may schedule other meetings as deemed necessary.

**The Lord's Supper** – The Lord's Supper is open to all Christ followers and shall be observed regularly as authorized by the Leadership Team.

**Baptism** – The ordinance of baptism shall be observed as necessary and anyone professing to be a Christ follower and seeking Believer Baptism by immersion for the first time will be received. The customary form of baptism we practice is Believer's Baptism by immersion (exceptions to immersion may be permitted by Governing Board approval).

### **BUSINESS MEETINGS**

**Annual Meeting** – The annual business meeting shall be held after November 1st and before December 15th. Church members shall be supplied with a copy of the annual report on the Sunday preceding the meeting. The annual budget will be presented to the membership at the annual meeting to be voted on. Also, the Nominating Committee will present candidates for open elected positions to be voted on.

**Regular Winter Meeting** – The Regular Winter Business Meeting is in addition to the Annual Meeting and shall be held each winter with the specific date to be determined by the Lead Pastor. The agenda shall include the Annual Membership Renewal, Yearly Audit and other business as determined by the Lead Pastor.

**Special Meetings** – Special business meetings may be held at any time by request of a majority of the Governing Board or by written request signed by a quorum of the membership and submitted to the Chairperson of the Governing Board. In addition to the standard meeting notice, special business meetings must be announced at a weekly worship service at least one week prior to the meeting.

**Eligibility to Vote in Meetings** – All matters pertaining to calling or dismissing a pastor, legal matters concerning property, constitutional changes and church discipline shall be voted on only by members in good standing who are of legal age eighteen (18). On all other matters, members who have reached their sixteenth (16) birthday shall be eligible to vote.

**Quorum** – The members physically or electronically present (must be able to be seen and heard) at any business meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of regular business that may properly come before the meeting. A simple majority in the affirmative shall be necessary to carry any motion except as otherwise designated by the constitution. Exceptions shall include calling or dismissing the Lead Pastor, legal matters concerning property and constitutional changes. For those exceptions, at least 50% of the church membership shall constitute a quorum.

**Notice of Meetings** – Notice for all regular and special business meetings shall be announced at a minimum of one weekly worship service made prior to the meetings. Exception to this shall occur in the acquisition or disposition of real property or encumbrance of same, where applicable Minnesota state law will apply, and requiring announcement for four (4) consecutive Sundays and in the amendment of this constitution where thirty (30) days notice shall be required.

**Rules of Order** –The Governing Board shall conduct business according to the rules contained in Robert’s Rules of Order (Revised) unless they conflict with the adopted constitution of this church. Members (by quorum) may require that Robert’s Rules of Order (Revised) be used unless they conflict with the adopted constitution of this church.

## **ELECTIONS**

Time - The Nominating Committee shall be responsible to provide nomination(s) as outlined in Article IX.

**Voting Procedures** – Voting in elections shall be by printed or electronic ballot. The ballot shall clearly indicate the term of office for each nomination made. Members of the Nominating Committee shall supervise the distribution of ballots by verifying each voter’s name against a current membership list, and shall give a ballot to every member who is present and qualified to vote. Absentee ballots will be available in the church the week prior to the election or from the Nominating Committee during the week before the election. Absentee ballots will be sealed in an envelope by the voter and held by the Nominating Committee (and/or their designee) until election. Absentee ballots that are turned in should be kept in a safe at the church. They must be verified and marked as received on the absentee roster prior to the election.

**Persons Elected** – A candidate affirmed by the membership by at least 80% of the quorum for an office shall be elected to that office. In the event that a candidate does not receive 80% of the vote, the office will officially be vacant. The Nominating Committee shall then convene and bring forward a new candidate.

## **ARTICLE XI: Acquisition, Disposition & Encumbrance of Real Property**

In constructing a building, acquiring or selling real estate, or encumbering real estate, the church membership shall act with proper notice of such business meeting as required by the laws of the State of Minnesota. Such requirement must be announced for four (4) Sundays, in public services, prior to the business meeting.

In case of organic division of the church membership, church property shall be determined by binding arbitration and belong to those members who abide by this constitution as determined by an arbiter assigned by the district executive of the CNC. In case of discontinuance of QCC and its ministries, the church property and debt shall be transferred to the CNC.

**ARTICLE XII: Amendments**

Amendments to this constitution can be made at any business meeting with a two-thirds affirmative vote, providing that notice is given in written and electronic form for four (4) Sundays prior to the meeting, stating the current policy and proposed amendment. Proposed amendments may be introduced by formal written motion in a previous business meeting, or to the Governing Board for introduction to the church.