

# Constitution & By-Laws

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INCLUDES THEOLOGICAL / PHILOSOPHICAL STATEMENTS & VALUES

Calvary Chapel in Eastern Connecticut

| 2017

# Contents

SECTION ONE.....	2
THEOLOGICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL STATEMENTS.....	2
OUR CONVICTIONS.....	3
OUR VALUES.....	4
OUR LEADERSHIP PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS.....	6
BYLAWS OF.....	7
CALVARY CHAPEL.....	7
OF.....	7
NEW LONDON.....	7
THE PURPOSE OF CALVARY CHAPEL/NEW LONDON IS:.....	7
PRINCIPAL OFFICE.....	8
MEMBERSHIP.....	8
GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH.....	9
A. CHRIST THE HEAD OF THIS CHURCH.....	9
B. THE OVERSIGHT OF THE BODY BY THE PASTOR AND ELDERS.....	9
C. ELDERS: REQUIREMENTS AND MINISTRY.....	9
D. DEACONS (Servants), MINISTRIES, CHRISTIAN WORKERS, TEACHERS, MINISTRIES.....	10
E. THE PASTOR: RESPONSIBILITY AND MINISTRY.....	11
F. ASSOCIATE PASTORS, STAFF AND INTERNS.....	12
RIGHTS OF ORDINATION.....	14
AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.....	14
ANNUAL ACCOUNTING PERIOD.....	15
EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS.....	15

Constitution and By-Laws Accepted and Amended January 2000

Reviewed BY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION ONE**

**THEOLOGICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL  
STATEMENTS**

## **OUR CONVICTIONS**

**A. WE BELIEVE that there is ONE LIVING AND TRUE GOD, eternally existing in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, equal in power and glory; that this triune God created all, upholds all, and governs all.**

3

Constitution & By-Laws Accepted and Amended January 2000

Reviewed BY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**B. WE BELIEVE that the SCRIPTURES of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, fully inspired, without error in the original manuscripts, and the infallible rule of faith and practice.**

**C. WE BELIEVE in GOD THE FATHER, an infinite, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love; that HE concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men; that HE hears and answers prayer; and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.**

**D. WE BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings, His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people and personal, visible return to earth.**

**E. WE BELIEVE in the HOLY SPIRIT, who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify and empower for ministry all who believe in Christ; we believe the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Jesus Christ and that He is an abiding Helper, Teacher, and Guide. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit and in the exercise of all the Biblical gifts of the Spirit.**

**F. WE BELIEVE that all MEN are sinners by nature and choice and are therefore under condemnation, that God regenerates and baptizes by the Holy Spirit, those who repent of their sins and confess Jesus Christ as Lord.**

**G. WE BELIEVE in the universal CHURCH, the living spiritual body, of which Christ is the Head and all regenerated persons are members.**

**H. WE BELIEVE that the Lord Jesus Christ committed two ORDINANCES to the church: baptism and communion open to all believers.**

**I. WE BELIEVE in the personal, visible, APPEARING OF CHRIST to earth and the consummation of His Kingdom; in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment and eternal blessing of the righteous and eternal punishment of the wicked.**

**J. WE BELIEVE in what is termed "The Apostle's Creed" as embodying fundamental facts of Christian faith, and endorse the historic orthodox creeds of the church.**

## **OUR VALUES**

**A. We value THE PURSUIT OF GOD. We are hungry to know God's presence, hear His voice and**

**follow hard after Him.**

**B. We value CHRISTLIKENESS. We desire that Jesus' love, mercy, grace, truth, purity, power, and integrity shine through all that we do.**

**C. We value BEING SPIRIT-LED. We honor Jesus as our Head and the Holy Spirit as our Counselor. We seek to be responsive to the Holy Spirit in life and ministry.**

**D. We value DISCIPLESHIP. We aim first to grow personally in the disciplines of Christ and secondly to make disciples calling others into those same practices.**

**E. We value THE MERCY OF GOD. We believe that mercy is fundamental to all that God does in salvation. We, therefore, aim to extend mercy to one another and to all to whom we minister.**

**F. We value INTEGRITY. It is important to us to speak the truth, deal honestly, and live uprightly.**

**G. We value SERVANT LEADERSHIP. We believe that Christ has put significant leadership authority in the hands of the pastor and his associates. We aim to exercise that authority with humility, selflessness, grace, care for the sheep and sincere desire to build up the Body of Christ.**

**H. We value UNITY. We are convinced that all who belong to Christ are one in His Body, the Church. We aim to maintain unity by honoring all who call on Jesus' name.**

**I. We value COLLEGIATE RELATIONSHIP. We are honored by every person whom God adds to the Calvary. We aim to work together to build the church through maintaining mutual respect, open communication, determined cooperation, and believing and speaking the best about each other.**

**J. We value REALITY. We aim to walk in the Spirit and see real supernatural works of God. We aim also to function on the natural plane based on God's leading and excellent, rational thinking.**

**K. We value SIMPLICITY. We wish to do nothing `for religious effect' but rather to operate in natural low key, `non- hype' patterns.**

## **OUR LEADERSHIP PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS**

- A. Sincere love for and pursuit of Jesus Christ demonstrated in regular personal worship, meditation on the Word, and prayer.**
- B. Demonstrated fullness of the Holy Spirit, faith, and wisdom.**
- C. A perception of leadership not as position, or title, or power, or authority, or respect, or privilege...but an obligation to service and self-sacrifice.**
- D. Personal exposure to, intimacy with, and loyalty to their leader.**
- E. Trustworthiness, with the ability to resist being bribed or bought.**
- F. Commitment to the Barnabas style of open, loving communication, to solving relational problems, to processing anger constructively, to encouraging and building up, and maintaining confidence strictly.**
- G. Willingness to be a 'team player' and to help one's pastoral associates to succeed.**
- H. A strong, loving marriage in which both the husband and wife sense the call to minister.**
- I. Capable and respected, mature in the faith, and with proven ministry ability.**
- J. A willingness to be judged by strict standards and to accept reproof.**
- K. Love for Jesus and His people, without desire to benefit personally at the expense of the sheep.**
- L. A commitment to equipping others for ministry through active recruiting, training, deploying, monitoring and nurturing.**
- M. A commitment to doing excellent work, taking responsibility seriously, being proactive, planning and executing well.**
- N. A committed, cheerful giver who tithes regularly to this fellowship.**

# **BYLAWS OF CALVARY CHAPEL OF NEW LONDON**

## **PURPOSE**

### **THE PURPOSE OF CALVARY CHAPEL/NEW LONDON IS:**

- 1) To worship God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit in spirit and in truth.**
- 2) To build up the church of Jesus Christ through the teaching of the Word and the ministry of the Spirit. To train and equip people to do the work of the ministry according to Ephesians chapter four. To build the church up through the regular, consistent clear teaching of the Word of God and by encouraging the ministry of the Body of Christ building each other up in love. To build up the Body of Christ through the manifestation of the various gifts and ministries of the Body among us.**
- 3) To persuade men to repent and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. To participate in the end-time proclamation of the Gospel world-wide. To fill Southeastern Connecticut with the Word of God by every means possible.**



(I)

**PRINCIPAL OFFICE**

**The principle office of the church for the transaction of business in accordance with all state, local and Federal laws is fixed and located at 126 Sharp Hill Road in Uncasville, Connecticut. The Board of Directors (Ruling Elders) may change the location of this office as is necessary.**

(II)

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Our church does not have formal membership, but we do have people who 'belong' to this church. Belonging is determined by the fact that God brought us out of our old way of living without him into a family of believers where we are learning to live our lives with and for Him. It isn't long before we discover that we really do belong and that we really do need each other. There are several ways in which our belonging to this fellowship happens:**

**Attendees: this is the simplest and most common way of belonging. We simply attend worship services where we express praise and gratitude towards God and learn about Him and His plan for our lives directly from the Bible. Many of the attendees who come here eventually become 'regulars' who become helpers, supporters, teachers, leaders and servers themselves.**

**Members are afforded all the privileges of those who call upon the name of Christ and are able to effect church life to the degree that they participate and minister. These members are subject to the process of church discipline as found in Matthew 18 in areas of Biblical moral purity, Biblical ethics, doctrinal error or other activities not in harmony with the Scriptures.**

**The church is responsible to the membership to insure that doctrinal, ethical and Biblical moral purity is exhibited by all staff, elders, deacons, and workers and members. The church shall report regularly to the congregation as to the spiritual, financial, and future status of the church**

**(III)  
GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH**

**A. CHRIST THE HEAD OF THIS CHURCH**

**The government of this church shall be focused on seeking and maintaining the Lordship and direction of Jesus Christ over His Body. All those in authority shall continually seek His mind and will, through His Spirit and the Word of God in all actions and decisions.**

**B. THE OVERSIGHT OF THE BODY BY THE PASTOR AND ELDERS**

**All authority in the Church is delegated authority: Christ gives authority to those who lead. The Board of Directors, hereafter referred to as elders, headed by the pastor shall be the governing body of the church. There shall also be deacons, who shall minister to the Body and its individual members under the direction of the pastor and elders.**

**C. ELDERS: REQUIREMENTS AND MINISTRY**

**1) The elders shall oversee and rule the ministry of the church precept and example under the leadership of the pastor. They shall pray together regularly, seeking the mind of the Lord. They shall meet regularly to review the execution of day to day functions.**

**2) Subject to limitations of the law and the articles of incorporation, all powers of the corporation shall be exercised by, be under the authority of, or properly delegated by the church elders including:**

- a) Approval and selection of officers, elders, deacons, agents and employees of the church.**
- b) Management of church affairs**
- c) Borrowing money or incurring indebtedness for the purpose of the church.**

**3) Elders shall meet all prerequisites as found in I Timothy 3 and Titus 1 and our "Leadership Requirements"**

**4) Elders shall have a vision for the international mission of the church (preaching, teaching, disciple making).**

**5) Elders shall be supportive of the pastor being confidants, prayer partners and friends, helping him with decisions, direction, family relations, and maintaining moral and ethical purity.**

**6) Elders are charged with the general oversight of the church. They are pastors. Shepherds, watching out for the spiritual well-being of the church. They are concerned with the total well-being of the church and are responsible for receiving vision, setting policies and goals.**

**7) The elders are responsible to rule in matters concerning church discipline and shall require that all members walk circumspectly, virtuously and in reverence for the Lord and His Word.**

**8) Elders will be selected from the membership by the pastor in recognition that the character and attributes of a shepherd have shown forth in his life and that God has raised that individual from among the body and selected him to carry out the responsibilities of an elder.**

**9) Candidates for elder shall be presented before the Body to determine their good standing and shall be ordained publicly.**

**10) Elders may serve until:**

- He voluntarily retires from office for any reason**
- He is disciplined by the Board of Elders and is required to leave his office because his life is not in harmony with the Scriptures**
- He is no longer supportive or in harmony with the church, it's leadership or vision.**
- He is sent out to another work.**
- He takes a leave of absence for rest, redirection, or other special purposes**
- The pastor, in consultation with the elders may ask for and require the resignation of an elder take no longer meets the requirements or criteria of eldership in this fellowship.**

**D. DEACONS (Servants), MINISTRIES, CHRISTIAN WORKERS, TEACHERS, MINISTRIES**

**1) Deacons are delegated authority by the church to carry out the responsibilities of their ministry,**

viewing such as a spiritual work. They shall meet all Biblical standards and prerequisites as found in the Word of God for appropriate ministry.

#### **E. THE PASTOR: RESPONSIBILITY AND MINISTRY**

The president (Pastor) shall have general supervision, direction and control of the business and affairs of the corporation. He shall preside at all meetings of the members, directors, elders and deacons and shall have such other powers and duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board of Directors.

##### **1) His Ministry**

a) The pastor shall minister unto the Lord in regular personal worship and praise. He shall give himself to the ministry of the Word and prayer (Acts 6:4) and seek to walk uprightly before the Lord in his personal life. He shall seek the mind of God.

b) The pastor shall be the teaching/shepherd of the church. He shall give considerable time to the study of the Word and shall teach the Scriptures to the flock by precept and example. He shall feed the flock, equip the saints for ministry, and guard the church against the attack of the enemy.

c) The pastor shall be the president of the Corporation, its Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Elders. He shall oversee the business of the church on a daily basis and give leadership to the associate and assistant pastors, the elders, the general church body and its ministries. The pastor shall have general supervision of the entire church and charge of all services, gatherings and meetings.

##### **2) His Qualifications (See I Timothy 3:1 - 7; Titus 1:5 - 9)**

a) The pastor shall be generally qualified according to the qualifications for elder.

b) The pastor shall be a Spirit-gifted teacher of the Word, an ordained pastor of good reputation, Biblically conservative in theology, Christ-centered, Spirit-filled, and willing to serve a non-denomination church without promoting denominational interests.

##### **3) His Appointment**

a) The elders shall seek and nominate a new pastor should a vacancy arise in the pastorate. This nomination shall be notified by three fourths (3/4) vote of the membership. They shall seek first among the associate or assistant pastors from within the fellowship.

b) The resignee or retiring pastor may nominate a successor and/or participate in the selection of his successor.

#### 4) His Compensation

The pastor's initial compensation shall be specified by the ruling elders at the time of his calling. The church shall provide adequate salary, housing allowance, health insurance, expense allowance, pension, conference funds, and continued education and other special funds as needed for his ministry. The church shall also defray the costs of sending the pastor to out-of-town conferences or conventions attended for the church.

5) In the event that the pastor fails to live within moral and ethical guidelines as found in Scripture, he may be terminated from his position providing:

a) The local church has sought the help and guidance of regional and national Calvary directors.

b) That 3/4 of elders and deacons are in agreement

c) That 3/4 of congregational members are in agreement

d) That all of the above are done with an eye towards moral and spiritual restoration.

#### F. ASSOCIATE PASTORS, STAFF AND INTERNS

##### 1) Associate Pastors

###### A) Their Ministries

1) An associate or assistant pastor shall minister unto the Lord in regular personal worship and praise. He shall give himself to the ministry of the Word and prayer (Acts 6:4) and seek to walk uprightly before the Lord in his personal life. He shall seek the mind of God.

**2) The pastor shall define an associate or assistant pastor's ministry upon his appointment. He shall serve under the pastor's direction and with the pastor in the teaching of the Word.**

**B) Their Qualifications**

**As associate pastor or assistant pastor shall meet the same qualifications as the pastor.**

**C) Their Appointment**

**The pastor shall appoint and the elders shall license or ordain an associate or assistant pastor to share in the ministry.**

**D) Their Compensation**

**The associate or assistant pastors' compensation shall be specified by the pastor to be ratified by the ruling elders at the time of their calling. For a full-time pastor, the church shall provide adequate salary, housing allowance, health insurance, expense allowance, pension, conference and continued education funds. For a part-time assistant, the church shall provide as seems appropriate to the elders.**

**E. Potential Termination**

**It shall be the prerogative of the pastor, after counseling with the elders, to ask for the resignation of pastoral associates or assistants if they are not in harmony with the ministry of the church.**

**2) Staff Members**

**A) Staff members shall meet the prerequisites in I Timothy 3.**

**B) The pastor shall hire staff after prayerful consultation with elders and deacons.**

**C) Compensation will be decided by the elders and deacons.**

**3) Intern Pastors**

**A) Part-time interns appointed by the pastor in a limited capacity while continuing**

education or serving for field training.

**B) Full-time interns appointed by the pastor as members of the pastoral staff for no longer than 24 months.**

**C) All interns are responsible for their own placement after periods of service.**

**D) Compensation will be decided (if any) by elders and deacons.**

(IV)

## **RIGHTS OF ORDINATION**

**1) Calvary Chapel/New London reserves the right to ordain ministers provided they meet all requirements for elders.**

**2) Candidates for ordination must be reviewed by the Board of Elders.**

**3) Candidates for ordination will be presented to the congregation to decide their worthiness.**

**4) Candidates for ordination must be interviewed by the pastor as a family. His wife and children must be in agreement.**

**5) Candidates for ordination must provide credible references from outside the church.**

**6) Calvary Chapel/New London reserves the right to revoke credentials for moral, ethical or doctrinal failure.**

(V)

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

**These Bylaws may be amended or repealed and new Bylaws adopted by the unanimous vote of the members of the Board of Directors at a directors' meeting.**

14

Constitution and By-Laws Accepted and Amended January 2000

Reviewed BY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

(VI)

## **ANNUAL ACCOUNTING PERIOD**

**The annual accounting period for this corporation shall begin on the first day of July and shall end on the last day of June.**

(VII)

## **EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS**

**A) The Board of Directors (ruling elders) may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, to enter into any contract or execute any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the church and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. Unless so authorized, no officer, agent or other person shall have any power or authority to bind the church by any contract or engagement or to pledge its credit or to render it liable for any purpose or to any amount.**

**B) The church shall keep in its principal office the original or a copy of its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, as amended to date, certified by the secretary, which shall be open to inspection by the members at all reasonable times during the office hours.**



