

# KING'S CROSS CHURCH

## Constitution and By-Laws

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<sup>1</sup> This constitution and by-laws has been developed with permission from the Constitution and By-Laws of Christ Community Church in Kansas City, New Anthem Church in Park City Kansas, Crossroads Evangelical Church in Wauseon Ohio, and King's Cross Church in Defiance Ohio.

# KING'S CROSS CHURCH CONSTITUTION

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## ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this church is King's Cross Church. (Abbreviated KCC).

## ARTICLE II - AFFILIATION

King's Cross Church is a member of the Fellowship of Evangelical Churches.

## ARTICLE III - GENERAL PROVISIONS

### Section 1 - Non-Profit Status

King's Cross Church shall be organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

### Section 2 - Exempt Practices

As King's Cross Church is organized solely for non-profit purposes, it shall not operate for pecuniary gain or profit, nor does it not contemplate the distribution of gains, profits, or dividends to its members. The property, assets, profits and net income of this church are irrevocably dedicated to charitable, educational, and religious purposes and no part of the profits or net income of this church shall ever inure to the benefit of any individual. This shall not prevent the payment of reasonable compensation for services rendered to or for the church in effecting any of its non-profit purposes.

### Section 3 - Conduct of Business

King's Cross Church has the power in its corporate name to buy, own, hold in trust, use, inherit, lease, rent, sell, exchange or dispose of such real and personal property as may be useful and necessary for ministry purposes. It shall also have the power to mortgage and encumber all or any part of the church property, and to borrow and raise money or other assets of any kind, for ministry purposes. The Church shall have power to buy, own and sell real property in its own name.

### Section 4 - Closure Protocol

Those adhering to the church constitution and bylaws shall retain the church name and property if the King's Cross Church divides. The Fellowship of Evangelical Churches automatically assumes ownership of all church property if the Church dissolves or the Elder Team ceases to function. Any member who has withdrawn or who has been excluded from

the Church loses all rights of church membership, including the right to attend church business meetings and the right to use personal and real property of the church. The private property of individual church members shall be exempt from church debt.

## **ARTICLE IV - MISSION**

King's Cross Church exists to lead people in the fullness of life found only in Jesus.

God calls us to love Him, to love our neighbor, and to make disciples of all nations—all while finding rest in the easy yoke of His son Jesus. We believe these two commands and one invitation (the Great Commandment, Great Commission and the Great Invitation)—are best summed up in Jesus' offer of fullness of life in him, which captures the maturity and obedience we strive for as disciples. It is what we are meant to live in and lead others into as disciples of Jesus.

## **ARTICLE V - VALUES**

### **GOSPEL-CENTERED**

As a church we center ourselves in the person and work of Jesus as we come to know Christ and continue maturing in him through the gospel.

### **SPIRIT-FILLED**

As a church we seek to fully embrace both the fruit and the gifts of the Spirit knowing that God delights in glorifying himself by achieving what is not possible by human power or might, but by his Spirit.

### **RELATIONALLY-DRIVEN**

As a church we are committed to community as we are called to follow and mature in Christ primarily through discipling relationships.

### **SERVANT-HEARTED**

As a church we are motivated not by selfish ambition or pride, but in humility we seek to serve and forgive one another as we see how Christ humbly came to serve and forgive us.

### **OUTWARD-ORIENTED**

As a church we are mindful of non-believers being with us so that instead of being insular, we direct our lives and language towards others.

### **MULTIPLICATION-MINDED**

As a church we will seek to multiply ourselves not only personally in making disciples who themselves make disciples, but also institutionally by planting churches locally and globally.

## **ARTICLE VI - STATEMENT OF FAITH<sup>2</sup>**

### **God**

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

### **The Bible**

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every area of human knowledge and activity should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

### **The Human Condition**

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. United in their fallen condition, all human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

### **Jesus Christ**

We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus, Israel's promised Messiah, was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

### **The Work of Christ**

We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

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<sup>2</sup> The statement of faith is taken from the Evangelical Free Church of America with minor adjustments, which can be found at <https://www.efca.org/resources/document/efca-statement-faith>

### **The Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christlike living and service.

### **The Church**

We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

### **Christian Living**

We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.

### **Christ's Return**

We believe in the personal, bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

### **Response and Eternal Destiny**

We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.

## **ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS**

Members may amend this constitution at any regular or special business meeting. Proposed amendments to the Constitution require a first and second reading at consecutive business meetings or King's Cross Church services. Any motion to amend must receive at least seventy five percent (75%) of the votes cast to pass.

### **ARTICLE VIII - PROVISION FOR BY-LAWS**

Members may adopt or amend any bylaws not in conflict with the constitution at any regular or special business meeting in accordance with the guidelines given for the operation of member meetings (Cf. Article 5.1-5.4). Any motion to adopt or amend a bylaw must receive a majority of the votes cast to pass. (Cf. Bylaw Article VI)

# BY-LAWS

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## ARTICLE I – GOVERNMENT

**1.1 Elder Team.** The congregation, through a group of godly men called elders who comprise an Elder Team, shall govern the Church. The Elders are a team of men described by the Biblical definition of elders (1 Pet 5:1-4; 1 Tim 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9) and affirmed by at least 75% of church members. The Lead Pastor fulfills a dual role serving both as a pastor and first among equals among the elder team. Authority for the governance of the church in spiritual and business matters resides in their hands.

**1.2 Authority.** Ultimate authority in the Church lies with the congregation. The Congregation affirms each elder individually during a congregational meeting designated and led by the Elder Team. After the congregation affirms the elders, the Elder Team shall have the authority to perform all church functions on behalf of the congregation except amend the constitution and bylaws, confirm a yearly budget, call a lead pastor, or purchase land or permanent buildings over and above 10% of the church budget. Any member may bring a matter to the Elder Team for discussion or voting at a future member meeting by making a written request to any member of the Elder Team.

**1.3 Additional Boards.** The Elder Team shall appoint all boards and teams needed to administer the Church's ministry. The Elder Team shall determine terms of service on these boards and teams.

## ARTICLE II - ELDERS

**2.1 Function.** The Elder Team is responsible for the spiritual and financial health of the church and to oversee the church's effectiveness in leading people into the fullness of life found in Jesus.

**2.2 Qualifications.** Elders are men who have been actively engaged members of King's Cross Church who fit the description of the Biblical definition of elders (1 Pet 5:1-4; 1 Tim 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9).

**2.3 Selection.** The Nominating Committee will assess and recommend potential elder candidates to the congregation for affirmation. The Nominating Committee will be selected by the church elders and be composed of church members and at least one elder. However, no more than half of the committee can be currently serving elders. Each elder candidate must be affirmed by at least seventy five percent (75%) of the votes cast by King's Cross members.

**2.4 Term of Service.** An elder term will last three years. An elder can serve for two consecutive terms only by unanimous agreement of the Elder Team and re-confirmation of 75% of the congregation. The Lead Pastor, however, will serve as a perpetual elder. An Elder, including the Lead Pastor, may also be removed by the Elder Team with a majority vote of the quorum (cf 2.5).

**2.5 Meetings and Quorum.** The Elder Team will meet as often as necessary to adequately lead the Church. A quorum of one more than half of its members must be present for the Elder Team to transact business. Minutes of all Elder Team meetings will be taken by an appointed secretary and will be available to any church member upon request within one (1) week after an Elder Team meeting. The Elder Team will keep the congregation informed as is appropriate within legal and ethical boundaries.

**2.6 Decision Making Process.** The Elder Team will make decisions in prayerful dependence on the Holy Spirit. All Elder Team decisions will require a majority vote of the quorum.

**2.7 Accountability.** The Elder Team is directly accountable to the Lord Jesus Christ for all its actions (Hebrews 13:17). It also is accountable to the congregation. Individual elders are accountable to the Elder Team and are able to be removed by a majority vote of the quorum.

**2.8 Organization.** The Elder Team will be self organizing. The various functions for which the Elder Team is responsible shall be delegated among the elders. Interest, training and spiritual gifts will be considered in delegating these functions.

### **ARTICLE III - STAFF AND PASTORS**

**3.1 Function.** King's Cross Church will call and support pastors who devote their full or part time vocation to the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4:11-16). This includes teaching the Bible, training others to make disciples, and demonstrating winsome gospel presence and proclamation.

**3.2 Qualifications.** Pastors will be men of established character who fit the biblical description for the office according to I Timothy 3:8-13 and 1 Peter 5:2-4 and the expectations outlined in individually tailored job descriptions. They must be in agreement with the Statement of Faith and credentialed through the Fellowship of Evangelical Churches.

**3.3 Pastor Search and Selection.** The Elder Team will be responsible to oversee the search process for new pastors. The affirmation of a new lead pastor requires the same guidelines as those for a new Elder (cf. 2.3). The hiring of an associate pastor does not require congregational affirmation.



**3.4 - Additional Leaders.** The Elder Team may call and support as many ministry leaders as needed to effectively carry out the church's purpose and ministry. Additional leaders will work in cooperation with, and under the overall direction of the lead pastor. They will be voting members of the Church by virtue of their position and will be in full agreement with the Church's statement of faith.

**3.5 - Resignation and Termination.** In cases of immorality, doctrinal impurity, and other serious offenses, a pastor or leader shall be suspended immediately by the Elder Team pending final discussion of the matter. The Elder Team has the authority to seek the pastor's or leader's resignation or terminate the pastor or leader if deemed necessary. The Elder Team shall determine a reasonable severance package. Throughout the process of a resignation or termination, the Elder Team shall keep the congregation informed as is appropriate within legal and ethical boundaries.

#### **ARTICLE IV – MEMBERS**

**4.1 Admission.** Any person who confesses Jesus Christ as Lord; affirms the Statement of Faith; is pursuing maturity in Christ; has been baptized into Jesus as a believer; and financially invests in the church may be a member of King's Cross Church.

**4.2 Removal.** A member may be removed from church membership if a year has passed without any record of participation in all of the following areas: 1). Attending Sunday Morning services, 2). Participating in a service team, 3). Attending a Home Group, or 4). Giving financially to the church. The Elder Team also has authority to remove a church member if their lifestyle is not consistent with the gospel and Statement of Faith.

**4.3 Church Discipline.** The Elder Team, in cooperation with pastoral staff as necessary, will administer church discipline according to the principles found in Matthew 18:15ff. The goal of church discipline is to lead church members who are found to be living an ungodly life or teaching what is contrary to Scripture back towards repentance and restoration with God and the church.

#### **ARTICLE V – MEETINGS**

**5.1 Annual Meetings.** King's Cross Church will have at least one scheduled business meeting annually. The Elder Team must announce the annual meeting time, date and place during regularly scheduled services on two successive Sundays that precede the meeting. The agenda, which will be formulated by the Elder Team for the annual meeting, must also be made openly available to all at least two Sundays in advance. The Elder Team will lead all congregation meetings and determine the format for discussion and voting. Minutes of all

congregational meetings will be taken by an appointed secretary and will be available to any church member upon request within one (1) week after the meeting.

**5.2 Special Meetings.** The Elder Team may call special meetings as necessary. The Elder Team must announce the special meeting date, time and place during the regularly scheduled services on at least two Sundays that precedes the meeting. The agenda for any special meeting must also be made openly available to all at least two Sundays in advance.

**5.3 – Quorum.** At least 20% of the church's voting members must be present for there to be a quorum necessary for voting matters.

**5.4 Voting.** The Elder team will have the authority to decide whether voting will be by show of hand, absentee, paper ballot or other appropriate method.

## **ARTICLE VI – AMENDMENTS**

Members may adopt or amend any bylaws not in conflict with the constitution at any regular or special business meeting in accordance with the guidelines given for the operation of member meetings (Cf. Article 5.1-5.4). Any motion to adopt or amend a bylaw must receive a majority of the votes cast to pass. (Cf. Constitution Article VIII).

## APPENDIX I - MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY

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We believe the Bible defines marriage as the lifelong union of one woman to one man for the purpose of mutual upbuilding, the formation of families, and glorifying God through a demonstration of the gospel in the marital relationship.

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no individuals engage in intimate sexual activity outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexual and bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, or any attempt to change one's biological sex, is sinful and falls short of God's design.

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor with the doctrines of the church.

We believe that in order to preserve the mission and integrity of the local church as the body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church family and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.