

The
Crossing Community Church
Constitution



80 Lower Silver Lake Road
Newtown, Pennsylvania 18940

The original constitution was adopted by a vote of church membership on March 25, 1979. Revisions were adopted on January 13, 1980, November 15, 1981, April 20, 1997, October 31, 2005, and November 13, 2016

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Preamble

The fellowship of believers at Crossing Community Church, having placed our faith in Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, seeks to follow Him according to the pattern set forth in His Word, the Bible. We willingly embrace the following articles:

Article I. Name and Status

This fellowship of believers shall be known as Crossing Community Church (hereafter referred to as "Crossing"), having been incorporated as a non-profit corporation in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Article II. Purpose

Our purpose is to glorify God by being and making committed followers of Jesus Christ. (c.f. Luke 10:27, Matthew 28:18-20)

Article III. Doctrinal Statements

Section 1. Preface

We recognize the Bible as the only source and final authority for doctrine. We present the following document that will govern our church life and government. We believe every person is created in the image of God and loved by God, and 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 the beliefs of Crossing. (c.f. Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31)

Section 2. Beliefs

The Scriptures

We believe the entire Old and New Testaments of the Bible are inspired of God, and therefore, are without error in the original writings. The Bible is the supreme and final authority in all matters about which it speaks. The Bible is to be interpreted in a literal way and is understandable because of the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; John 16:13

The Godhead

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, sovereign, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in three distinct and equal persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:18-19; Mark 12:29; John 1:1-3; Isaiah 43:13, 46:10

The Incarnation of Jesus

We believe God the Son became fully man, without ceasing to be God, in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man.

Luke 1:30-35; John 1:18, 3:16; Hebrews 4:15; Philipians 2:5-8

The Redeeming Work of Jesus

We believe Jesus accomplished our redemption when He died on a cross as a substitutionary sacrifice for the sins of all mankind. All may personally appropriate (take for themselves) His work on the cross by solely believing in (trusting in or relying on) Jesus for their redemption. Those who trust in Jesus are declared righteous, i.e. not guilty, before God on the basis of Jesus' finished work alone, by grace, through faith.

John 1:29, 3:16; Romans 3:25-26; 2 Corinthians 5:14; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-10

The Resurrection of Jesus

We believe in the literal, physical resurrection of Jesus from the dead, His ascension into heaven, and His present life there for us. Jesus is now exalted and, as our High Priest, fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate, on our behalf, with the Father.

John 20:17-20; Philippians 3:20-21; Acts 1:11; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 2:1

The Return of Jesus

We believe in the imminent return of Jesus for the Church. At that time, the bodies of all the members of the Church, whether living or deceased, will be changed and caught up, to be together with the Lord forever. We believe in the glorious physical return of Jesus to the earth, with the Church, to set up a kingdom in which He shall reign for one thousand years in righteousness and peace, in fulfillment of promises God made to Israel.

Acts 1:11, 15:16-17; Matthew 24:42; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 20:1-3

God, the Holy Spirit

We believe God the Holy Spirit is the Author of Scripture. He is that person of the Trinity who restrains evil in the world, convicts man of sin, points man to Christ, regenerates believers, and baptizes them at the moment of belief into the body of Christ. He indwells believers permanently and seals them unto the day of redemption. He progressively makes those yielded to His control more like Jesus, setting them apart from sin unto God, and preparing and empowering them for service.

2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16; John 16:7-15; Ephesians 4:30; 2 Corinthians 5:5

Spiritual Gifts

We believe the Holy Spirit gives one or more spiritual gifts (special abilities) to every believer for the building up of the body of Christ and for reaching those who do not believe. We encourage believers to discover and exercise the gifts with which they've been entrusted, since their faithfulness to exercise them will be judged by God.

Ephesians 4:11-16; Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28

Mankind

We believe mankind was created in the image of God and in perfect fellowship with God, and when Adam sinned the entire human race fell. Consequently, mankind experiences not only physical death but also spiritual death (separation from God). All human beings are born with a sinful nature. Man is depraved and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition.

Genesis 1:26; 1 Corinthians 5:22; Romans 3:10-12, 5:12; John 3:16

We believe God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image of God. The rejection of one's biological gender is a rejection of God's design within that person, and all conduct with the intent to adopt a gender other than one's birth gender is contrary to the Bible.

Genesis 1:26-27; Deuteronomy 22:5

Marriage

We believe marriage is defined in Scripture as having only one meaning: the lifelong uniting of one biological man and one biological woman in a single, exclusive union. God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. All sexual activity outside of the marriage relationship is contrary to the Bible.

Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 19:4-6, 9; Mark 10:2-12; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 15-20, 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4; Exodus 20:14, 17, 22:19; Leviticus 18:22-23, 20:13,15-17; Romans 1:18-31; 1 Timothy 1:8-11; Jude 7

Salvation

We believe God offers forgiveness for all sins to all who confess their sins, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. Concerning man's salvation, God has revealed that He is sovereign,

in some way He is behind everything else that is or happens, He is not willing that any should perish, and in His sovereignty He holds man responsible. The intellectual tension man feels between God's sovereignty and man's choice (freedom of will) is due to man's finite vantage point and God's limited revelation. In reality there is no tension. God is absolutely sovereign. In His sovereignty, He has devised and revealed a plan whereby salvation has been made available to all mankind; this sovereign plan involves the will of man, for God has said that whoever will, may come to Him through Jesus. Revelation 22:17; Ephesians 3:2, 9, 11; 1 Peter 1:10-12; Romans 1:21-23; Colossians 1:26-28

We believe God offers redemption and restoration to all who seek His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus. By personal faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus as the Son of God, everyone who receives Jesus as Savior is rescued from the penalty of his/her sins, and at that moment becomes a child of God forever. This salvation is a gift given by God because of His love and grace, wholly apart from any human effort or merit, and is the only way of forgiveness, victory over sin, and escape from eternal judgment. As understood by His Promises, believers are kept eternally secure by the power of God, and it is their privilege to enjoy the assurance of salvation based solely on faith in Jesus through the testimony of God's Word.

John 1:12, 3:16, 5:24, 6:47, 10:27; 1 John 5:11-13, 15; Ephesians 1:7; Acts 3:19-21; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Resurrection & Judgment of Mankind

We believe in the bodily resurrection and judgment of all mankind. Those who die without believing on Jesus will be resurrected to experience judgment, then suffering apart from God in the Lake of Fire forever. The bodies of believers who have died will be resurrected, transformed, and reunited with the immaterial part of their being (mind, emotions, will) already in heaven enjoying eternal life with God.

We believe those who have placed their faith in Jesus will appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ; their works will be evaluated not to determine where they will spend eternity (Heaven or Hell), but for the purpose of being rewarded for good works done in the body, or suffering loss for failure to have faithfully followed and obeyed Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-14; 2 Corinthians 5:8; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

New Nature

We believe every believer, while now possessing a new nature, still possesses a sinful old nature which cannot be eradicated in this life. God has made full provision through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit for believers to control this sinful nature and live holy lives. No one except Jesus has ever lived a perfect and sinless life. All believers are to give attention to becoming spiritually mature and fruitful. They are not to use their liberty in Christ as an occasion to sin.

Ephesians 1:13; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:11-13, 8:2, 4, 12-13; Galatians 5:13, 16-23; Ephesians 4:13, 22-24; Colossians 3:1-10; 15; 2 Peter 2:16

Satan

We believe Satan is real, a fallen angel, and the author of sin. He is the open and declared enemy of God and man. His fate was sealed when Jesus died on the cross. He is presently overcome when believers apply biblical truth and he will someday be cast into the Lake of Fire forever.

Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:11-19; Colossians 2:15; Revelation 20:1-3, 10; Romans 5:12-14; Ephesians 6:10-12; 1 Peter 5:8

Universal Church

We believe the Church, in its invisible form, is universal and the true body of Christ. All believers, from the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1) until the Church is caught up to be with the Lord, are members of the universal Church regardless of organizational affiliation. For the Church Jesus ordained the water baptism of believers and the regular observance of the Lord's Supper (Communion) until He returns. Obedience to Jesus in the practice of these ordinances is not a means of salvation.

Romans 12:5; Acts 2:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Local Church

We believe the visible church is the local gathering of people who profess faith in Jesus for salvation, who have been baptized, practice the Lord's Supper, and are organized to fulfill God's mandate to the church. That mandate is fourfold: worship of God, learning about God and His plans, building a Christ-centered fellowship of believers, and living out the gospel as salt and light in our immediate community as well as among the unreached people in our world.

Acts 2:41-47; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Hebrews 10:24-25; Ephesians 4:12-16, 5:19; Colossians 3:16

Article IV. Government & Organization

Section 1. Preface

Crossing recognizes the Lord Jesus Christ as the eternal and sole head of the church. Crossing is not accountable to or under the jurisdiction of any other ecclesiastical body. The affairs of Crossing shall be governed by a group of duly elected men known as the Elder Council (hereafter referred to simply as "the Council"). The Council is accountable to the Lord Jesus Christ as the head of the church.

Section 2. The Elder Council

The Council has the privilege and responsibility to lead and oversee the general direction, spiritual welfare, and fiscal responsibilities of Crossing. Elders are men who are recognized spiritual leaders and shepherds meeting the qualifications for an Elder found in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. Elders must be in full agreement with every point of this Constitution and the doctrinal belief statements presented in Article III, section 2 of this document.

The Council shall determine how many Elders may serve at any time, but at least three (3) Elders are needed to constitute a complete Council, and no more than twelve (12) governing (active) Elders will serve at one time.

At those times when there are only one or two active Elders, the Council shall be considered incomplete. If challenged in writing by two (2) or more Regular Members, any authority assumed by an incomplete Council or any decision made shall be subject to the approval of a simple majority of a quorum of the membership.

The Council shall designate corporate officers to fulfill any other legal requirements related to Crossing's incorporation.

At its discretion, the Council may elect or appoint leadership to oversee the church's various ministries of the Council. Leaders of these ministries must be members of Crossing and in good standing.

Section 3. Responsibilities of The Council

The Council shall be solely responsible for:

- 1) Guarding the purity of doctrine
- 2) Pastoring and shepherding the church body at Crossing
- 3) Directing the affairs of Crossing and organizing them in such a manner as to fulfill our stated purpose
- 4) Rendering an official interpretation of any part of this Constitution when such is needed (Council majority required)

- 5) Proposing changes to the Constitution, and presentation to the membership for final vote and approval
- 6) Oversight of finances
- 7) Oversight of leadership
- 8) Oversight of membership

Section 4. Procedures for Appointment of an Elder

- 1) At an Official Meeting of the Church Membership, the Council shall request of the membership, in writing, the names of men they wish to have considered as Elder candidates. See Article IV, Section 6, for Pastoral Calling exception.
- 2) By majority vote, the Council may select the names of one or more men as Elder candidates to be examined and qualified. The Council may also consider candidates outside of the names submitted by the membership.
- 3) The Council shall examine and determine which Elder candidate(s) is/are qualified to serve as an Elder based on the following:
 - a. The Elder candidate meets the qualifications set forth in Scripture (1 Timothy 3, Titus 1)
 - b. The Elder candidate has the appropriate mental and emotional maturity
 - c. The Elder candidate has the appropriate capacity (time, availability, etc.)
 - d. The Elder candidate has doctrinally sound beliefs, consistent with the Bible, is in full agreement with this constitution and the doctrinal belief statements in Article III, Section 2 of this document
 - e. The Elder candidate is committed to Crossing's Purpose
- 4) The Council shall determine, by a seventy-five percent (75%) or more vote in favor, which candidate(s) is/are qualified to serve. At a regular church service, candidates who are qualified by the Council shall be presented as qualified Elder candidates approved by the Elder Council, subject to the approval of the church membership.
- 5) At or immediately after the presentation of the Elder candidates to the church, but in no event later than three (3) days thereafter, in such a manner as the Council deems appropriate, the Council shall distribute ballots to the Regular Members of the church to vote for or against each of the Elder candidates qualified and presented by the Council. The Council must receive returned ballots no later than two (2) weeks after the service at which the Council presented the Elder candidates. Ballots may be returned to the Council in such a manner as the Council deems appropriate.
- 6) An Elder candidate shall be approved to become a member of the Council by the church membership if at least seventy-five percent (75%) of a quorum of Regular Members vote in favor of such Elder candidate. (See Article V, Section 7 of this document for definition of a voting quorum).
- 7) The Council will discuss the voting with the Elder candidate, and the candidate shall be immediately installed as a member of the Council and recognized as soon as practical.

Section 5. Term of Service as an Elder

- 1) Normally, once a man has been recognized and appointed as an Elder, he shall continue to be recognized as having the office of Elder for as long as he continues to be a Regular Member.
- 2) An Elder may resign his position by providing two (2) weeks written notice to the Council. The Council shall communicate with the church membership no later than the second Sunday following the date the Elder gave his resignation, along with such reason(s) therefore as the resigning Elder and the Council mutually agree to state.
- 3) At times, an Elder may elect to become “inactive” as an Elder. An Elder may go on “inactive status” by written request to the Council, followed by resolution of at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the members of the Council. No later than the second Sunday following the determination of “inactive status,” the Council shall communicate with the church membership that an Elder has assumed such status, along with such reason(s) as the inactive Elder and the Council mutually agree to state.
- 4) “Inactive” Elders shall not have the right to attend or participate in meetings of the Council. The official ruling oversight of the church including, but not limited to, the right to vote on matters before the Council, shall be vested solely in those Elders currently serving on the Council who have “active status.”
- 5) An Elder who is on “inactive status” and who desires to return to “active status” shall submit his written request to the Council. An “Inactive” Elder may be reinstated to “active status” through the following process:
 - a. The Council shall first vote to recommend the “inactive” Elder be returned to “active status.” Upon the affirmative vote of at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the active members of the Council, the “inactive” Elder shall be presented to the membership.
 - b. In such way(s) as the Council deems appropriate, the Council shall distribute ballots to the Regular Members of the church in order to vote for or against the return of the “inactive” Elder to “active status.”
 - c. The Council must receive returned ballots no later than two (2) weeks after the ballots have been distributed. Ballots may be returned to the Council in such way(s) as the Council deems appropriate.
 - d. To qualify for reappointment, an “inactive” Elder must receive a vote in favor of their return to the Council from at least seventy-five percent (75%) of a quorum of Regular Members. See Article V, Section 7 for definition of a voting quorum.
- 6) Only the Council shall have the authority to remove an Elder from office. Prior to taking a vote for removal, the Elder Council must:
 - a. Fulfill all provisions of Article V, Section 5, paragraph 1 of this document (Conflict Resolution Section).
 - b. Announce to the members it is evaluating all Elders, and request information from the members using any process the Council (simple majority required) decides.
 - c. After the evaluation, the Council will vote and the Elder will be removed if an affirmative vote of at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the members of the Council (not including the Elder being considered for removal) is obtained. No later than the second Sunday following the removal of the Elder, the Council shall communicate with the church membership the Council has voted to remove the Elder based upon the Council’s evaluation and member input.
 - d. When there are only one or two active Elders and church discipline of an Elder seems to be the biblical next step, an accuser and one or two witnesses may, in writing, call for a special meeting of the church. The accused Elder must be invited to this “hearing” and served a two-week advance notice. Such church meetings are to be moderated by a mediation ministry such as Peacemaker Ministries, or similar organization. The Peacemaker Ministries (or similar third-party organization) representative, and the other

Elder if there is one, will have the opportunity to make recommendations and call for a vote of the total active membership who attend the hearing. A two-thirds (2/3) majority is needed for the recommendation to pass.

- 7) Along with voting to approve all new Elder appointments proposed by the Council, the membership shall have the opportunity to participate in providing formal feedback on all currently active Elders. No Elder shall continue in an "active status" (serving on the Council) for more than three (3) years without receiving formal input from the membership. Feedback by the members shall always be in response to Council-generated Elder reappointment plans. The Council will consider this input from members prior to reappointing the Elder.

Section 6. Call of Pastors / Vocational Ministry Directors

- 1) If the Council determines to have an Elder serve vocationally (that is, receive compensation) in a Pastoral position or as a Ministry Director, the Elder must receive a vote of affirmation from at least seventy-five percent (75%) of a quorum of Regular Members in favor of an appointment to serve in this capacity. (See Article V, Section 7 for definition of a voting quorum). A two-week period will be given for ballot response.
- 2) In the case of a candidate for a Pastoral position, the following shall apply:
 - a. Any Pastoral candidate must meet the qualifications of Elder as stated in Article IV, Section 4, point (3) of this document;
 - b. The job offer need not include a seat on the Council;
 - c. After one (1) year of service, a seat on the Council may be granted in accordance with Article IV, Section 4, points (4), (5), (6) and (7) of this document.

Section 7. Deacons

The role of a deacon is to serve as an assistant to the Council under their leadership and direction (in keeping with the example seen in Acts 6). At the discretion of the Council, men or women may be appointed to this role for a specific function and given the title of "deacon." They must meet the qualifications for godly character stated in 1 Timothy 3:8-11, have a concern for the church body, and a desire to serve. These appointments may not necessarily be permanent.

Section 8. Procedures for Appointment of a Deacon

- 1) By majority vote, the Council may select the names of one or more Deacon candidates to be examined and qualified. The Council may solicit the membership for the names of men or women to be considered as Deacons.
- 2) By a vote of at least seventy-five percent (75%) in favor, the Council shall examine and determine which Deacon candidate(s) is/are qualified to serve as a Deacon(s) based on the following. The Deacon candidate must:
 - a. be a member;
 - b. meet the godly character stated in 1 Timothy 3:8-11;
 - c. have the appropriate mental and emotional maturity;
 - d. have the appropriate capacity (time, availability, etc.);
 - f. have doctrinally sound beliefs consistent with the Bible, and be in full agreement with this Constitution and the doctrinal belief statements in Article III, Section 2 of this document;
 - e. be committed to Crossing's Purpose.
- 3) Candidates who are qualified by the Council shall be presented to the church at a regular church service as Deacons approved by the Council.

Section 9. Term of Service as a Deacon

- 1) Normally, once an individual has been recognized and appointed as a Deacon, he/she shall continue to be recognized as a Deacon for as long as the Council deems the functional role is necessary.
- 2) A Deacon may resign the position by providing a two-week written notice to the Council. No later than the second Sunday following the date the Deacon gave resignation, the Council shall communicate it with the church membership, along with such reason(s) therefore as the resigning Deacon and the Council mutually agree to state.

Article V. Membership

Section 1. Explanation of Membership

As a local church, we offer our friendship and the good news of our Savior to all people. We offer fellowship in Christ to all believers regardless of church membership affiliation, except in specific cases involving believers who have set themselves against our teachings, practices, or against any clear directive of the Word of God. In those cases we do not offer fellowship to believers whose continued involvement would, as determined by a majority of the Council, be destructive or a hindrance to Crossing's purpose.

In order to best relate to the world in which we live (in the holding of property, in the receiving and distribution of gifts, etc.) and for reasons of our own (qualifying those who fellowship with us for voting privileges and for positions of responsibility) we shall practice formal church membership. Application for membership shall be submitted in writing to the Council.

Section 2. Types of Membership

1. Regular – a member who has fulfilled all regular membership requirements and is active in church life (c.f. Article V, Section 3). Regular Members are extended all membership privileges.
2. Regular, Ministering Member – a missionary or other person in full- or part-time ministry who has fulfilled all regular membership requirements and is extended all membership privileges. They may vote on issues while on home leave in the States, and may attend Members Meetings (if that is required to vote).
3. Military Member – a person in the military who has fulfilled all regular membership requirements and is extended all membership privileges. They may vote on issues while on home leave in the States, and may attend Members Meetings (if that is required to vote).
4. Inactive – a member who has failed to attend services or show an interest in the affairs of Crossing for a period of six (6) consecutive months, as determined by the Council, and is no longer extended voting privileges or considered for positions of responsibility. Inactive Members shall be informed in writing of the Council's intention to terminate their membership. They may dispute the declaration.

Section 3. Regular Membership Requirements

- 1) Minimum age of 18 years old
- 2) Personal faith in Christ as Savior

- 3) Water baptism since believing
- 4) Agreement with Crossing's doctrinal belief statements in Article III, Section 2 of this Constitution
- 5) Willingness to submit to Crossing's Constitution
- 6) Sincere desire to live for God according to His Word
- 7) Successful participation and completion of a membership class, or process approved by the Council
- 8) Any applicant under the discipline of his/her prior church shall make such circumstance known to the Council at the time of application. The Council will have a review of the circumstances and status of this discipline prior to making a decision regarding church membership.
- 9) If applicable, each individual is expected to inform the church of which he/she was most recently a member of his/her decision to transfer membership.

Section 4. Rights, Privileges, and Restrictions of Membership

It shall be the right of every Regular Member to:

- 1) Exercise one (1) vote on matters brought before the membership either at a Members Meeting, or by a ballot provided to them. To be eligible to vote on any matter placed before the membership, a person must be a member for a minimum of two (2) months prior to a ballot being provided. (c.f. Article IV, Section 7)
- 2) Have a voice at Crossing business meetings and to address meetings of the Council;
- 3) Hold positions of responsibility when all other appropriate qualifications are met.

It shall be the privilege of members to use Crossing's facilities for weddings, funerals, and other church-related functions approved by the Council.

Members of Crossing have no property rights in any and all real estate owned by Crossing, or in any personal property that has been expressly donated to Crossing.

Section 5. Conflict Resolution

We are committed to a biblical manner of resolving all disputes that may arise within our leadership, the Council, and overall church body. This commitment is based on God's command that Christians should strive earnestly to live at peace with one another (c.f. Matthew 5:9; John 17:20-23; Romans 12:18; Ephesians 4:1-3), and when disputes arise, Christians should resolve them according to the principles set forth in Scripture (c.f. Proverbs 19:11; Matthew 5:23-25, 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 6:1-8; Galatians 6:1). We believe these commands and principles are obligatory on all Christians and absolutely essential for the well-being and work of the church. Therefore, any and all disputes at Crossing shall be resolved according to these biblical principles.

If a dispute arises within Crossing or between a member and Crossing, and cannot be resolved through internal procedures, it shall be resolved as follows:

The dispute shall be submitted to mediation and, if necessary, legally binding arbitration in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Institute for Christian Conciliation, and judgment upon an arbitration award may be entered in any court otherwise having jurisdiction. (For a copy of these Rules contact the church office)

Section 6. Termination of Membership

The Council may terminate membership in any of the following ways:

- 1) Resignation: Any member who desires to resign from membership may do so by a letter of resignation presented to the Council. If the resignation is related to church matter, the Council will make every effort to resolve the issues prior to accepting the resignation. If it appears to the Council that a member has requested removal merely to avoid church discipline, that request shall not be given effect until the disciplinary process has been properly concluded (c.f. Matt. 18:12-20).
- 2) Removal: The Council may remove a person from the regular membership roll when that member has failed to participate in a service or show interest in the affairs of Crossing for six (6) consecutive months, as determined by the Council, and no satisfactory answer has been given for the member's prolonged non-participation. The Council may also remove a person from membership if they no longer meet the conditions of membership (c.f. Article V, Section 3). Individuals who are removed from regular membership shall be notified of same.
- 3) Expulsion: In the exercise of its biblical authority in discipline, when the church withdraws fellowship from a person, the rights and privileges of a member cease immediately. (c.f. Matt 18)
- 4) Death: Membership automatically terminates at death.

For items (1), (2), and (3) presented above, the Council shall have the authority to reinstate a member. Whether or not to announce a reinstatement shall be left to the discretion of the Council.

Section 7 Voting

An Official Meeting of the Church Membership shall be a meeting for which not less than two (2) weeks notice has been provided to all Regular Members recorded on the church's membership roll as of a record date set by the Council not more than thirty (30) days prior to such meeting, and at which a quorum of the membership shall be in attendance.

To be eligible to vote on any matter placed before the membership, a person must be a member for a minimum of two (2) months prior to a ballot being provided.

A quorum of the membership shall be constituted at an Official Meeting of the Church Membership if at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the Regular Members recorded on the church's membership roll as of the record date set for such meeting are present in person.

Voting Quorum: For votes that are not taken at Official Meetings of the Church Membership, a quorum of ballots is defined as at least fifty-one percent (51%) of all official ballots being returned.

Should any vote end in a tie, the matter will be decided by a majority of the Council.

Use of absentee ballots shall be at the discretion of the Elders, with the exception of the Annual Members' Meeting. Absentee ballots may not be used for voting at the Annual Members' Meeting or any other meeting where the Council deems the dialogue that occurs at the meeting is a necessary factor for the membership to consider prior to casting votes.

Article VI. Members' Meetings

There shall be an Annual Members' Meeting at a time designated by the Council. The agenda shall include annual reports from church leadership and the presentation of a proposed church budget.

Before it is adopted, the church budget must be recommended by the Council and approved by a simple majority vote of a quorum of the membership.

As needed, other members' meetings may be called by the Council. Two (2) weeks advance notice shall be required before any church Members' Meeting is held.

Normally, an Elder shall moderate a church Members' Meeting.

Article VII. Property

The real estate of this church shall not be sold, exchanged, mortgaged, leased, or otherwise encumbered except by recommendation of the Council and a simple majority vote of a quorum of the membership, at a duly called church business meeting. The acquisition of real estate shall be decided in the same manner.

Article VIII. This Constitution

Section 1. Revisions

No part of this Constitution shall be revised in such a way as to hinder prosecution of its original purpose (c.f. Preamble and Article II).

Revisions may be made by recommendation of the Council. Such recommendations shall be made in writing and presented for discussion at a duly called and noticed meeting of the members, a meeting at which a quorum shall not be required. Adoption shall require approval by vote of a simple majority of the total active membership. This vote may be taken without another meeting, through correspondence, following the presentation meeting.

Section 2. Bylaws

As they become necessary, bylaws that do not alter, conflict with, or contradict this Constitution may be added for clarification and implementation. They shall be added by decision of the Council. Such action shall be preceded by a presentation to the church and survey response from a quorum of the membership.

Article IX. Dissolution

This corporation may be dissolved by recommendation of the Council and a simple majority vote of the total active membership.

If Crossing should dissolve as a corporation, after meeting all responsibilities and paying all just obligations, none of its remaining assets shall inure to the benefit of any individual member of the corporation. In the event of its dissolution, all such assets shall, by recommendation of the Council and a simple majority vote of a quorum of the membership, be turned over to one or more organizations which are in harmony with the Purpose and Doctrinal Statement of this corporation. Such organizations must also be recognized by the United States Treasury Department as non-profit and exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), and are engaged in activities substantially similar to those of Crossing, to be accomplished pursuant to a plan adopted by the Elder Council, provided no assets are distributed to any organization governed by a member of the Elder Council. Any assets not otherwise disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the church is then located, for such purposes and to such organizations as said court shall determine.