

Bylaws of Zion #3 Church

Duties of Members

Means of Grace

Every member should endeavor to lead a godly life, observe the Sacraments of God's house, be diligent in prayer, particularly in private and for their own edifications, attend our prayer meetings, class meetings, and whatever other meetings there may be at the Church.

Family Devotion

Heads of families should pray with their families morning and evening when possible and set before them a godly example in all the Christian virtues.

Love to Others

Everyone should strive to walk as in the presence of God, accustom himself or herself to a close communion with God in all of God's employment, should never speak evil of his fellow members, should practice love toward friend and foe, do well to the poor and endeavor to a follower of Jesus Christ indeed.

Observance

Everyone should keep the Sabbath Day holy as required in the Word of God. Members should spend our time in exercises of devotion such as in reading, hearing the word of God, and in singing spiritual hymns to the honor and glory of God.

Sunday School

It is the duty of all members to encourage our Sunday School by their presence when practicable. Members should always give aid, give positive, Godly influence, and share experiences when possible.

Encouraging Young People

Every member is required to encourage the development of the devotional life of each young person by cooperating with them in the work of our Church, Sunday School, Youth Fellowship, evangelistic service, and Christian endeavors in all projects.

Necessity of Union with Members

Let us be deeply sensible of the evil of division in principle, spirit, and practice, and division's dreadful consequences to others and us. If we are united, what can stand before us? If we are divided we shall injure the work of God, the souls of men, and each other.

Therefore,

1. Let us be deeply convinced of the absolute necessity of unionity.
2. Let us pray earnestly for one another and speak truly and freely to one another.
3. When we meet let us not part without prayer if prayer is at all practical.
4. Let us take great care not to despise each person and their heavenly gifts.
5. Let us never speak lightly of one another.
6. Let us defend one another's character in everything, as far as is consistent with truth.
7. Let us labor in honor, each preferring another before us.
8. Let us seriously examine the causes, evils and cures of heart and church divisions.

Care of the Poor

Each member should willingly and freely contribute to the support of the helpless and poor as God has prospered them. When it is known by any member that there are poor among us it shall be the duty of the leaders (deacons) to appoint someone to check further to see what may be needed in each case.

Conformity to the Word

Romans 12:2 KJV “And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Jame 1:21 KJV “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness and receive with meekness the engrafted word which is able to save your souls.”

I Timothy 2:8-10 KJV “I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety: not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array: But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

Support of the Church

It is the duty of all members to pay toward the support of this church by financial means as God hath prospered them.

The Pulpit

No one shall preach at Zion #3 Church except those approved by the Pastor. In his absence, the majority of Deacons shall have all governing authority.

The Pastor or Deacons shall not permit anyone to present any cause for/or financial interest from our church without a majority of the church voting for said expense.

At no time shall the deed or title to any church property be given as collateral or any type of loan.

Zion #3 has always been and will always be a Christian Church. No other forms of religion are allowed to practice or use the church property, likewise, members, officers, and the pastor of Zion #3 Church, shall not take part in the worship of other religions.

There shall be no Christening of infants, but infants may be dedicated by any ordained authority of the church with prior approval by the Pastor and/or Deacons.

Zion #3 Church or its properties or its elected or appointed officers shall not take part in any ceremonies concerning or pertaining to same sex marriages. Zion #3 Church recognizes marriage as a relationship between a man and a woman.

Electing Trustees

The church shall elect by ballot a board of trustees consisting of five (5) members or more. The nominees shall be selected from the current membership list. The tenure of office shall be so arranged that there shall be the annual election of one or more trustees to serve five (5) years or until a successor is elected. Whoever receives the majority of votes by members will be elected.

Electing Sunday School and Church Officers

Nominations for officers will be made by members of good standing during the November business meeting. The elections for Sunday School and Church officers will take place at the December business meeting using a secret ballot with majority getting the office. During this time, those nominated will have time to

pray and consider if they wish to be on the ballot for the office for which they have been nominated. If they wish to remove their name from consideration, they are to inform a Deacon or the membership.

As much as possible, business meetings will be held the first Thursday of every month. Non Members may attend if the membership agrees, but non members cannot take part in discussions or vote on issues which may be discussed. If the membership agrees, non members may be asked to leave the meeting if the Pastor and Deacons agree confidentiality is needed. If a non member wishes to partake in discussions, they must first obtain permission from the Pastor and Deacons.

Only members of Zion #3 Church will be allowed to hold office either elected or appointed.

The election of a Pastor shall be on a yearly basis, with the following exceptions

1. Should the Church wish the Pastor to leave before the year is up, he should be given a thirty (30) day notice by one of the ordained authorities of the church in order that love and unity will always prevail.
2. If the Pastor chooses to leave the church, he should give thirty (30) days notice to the church in order that love and unity will always prevail.
3. The Pastor is elected by secret ballots using yes or no with majority of church members deciding outcome of election.
4. If the church has other ministers to be placed on the ballot for Pastor, these ministers must first be approved by the majority of the deacons before being placed on the ballot.
5. After being placed on the ballot and members voting, the minister getting the most votes is elected.
6. The incumbent or newly elected Pastor has the right to reject the job if he feels there is not a working majority of the members.

Duty of Obedience

The foregoing rules are drawn up for the better regulation of our church. We believe that they are founded upon the word of God, and that their observance is incumbent upon all members. Should any violate or habitually neglect these rules that person shall be admonished to reformation. This reformation shall be done by the Pastor and should that person not reform, this person shall be dealt with according to the following rules:

In case of neglect of duty of any kind, imprudent conduct, indulging sinful tempers or words, or disobedience to the Word of God: First let private reproof be given by the Pastor and one Deacon or Church Leader. If there be acknowledgment of the fault and a promise of reform, that person will continue to be accepted as a member in good standing.

On the second offense, the Pastor, Deacon or Church Leader shall take with him one or two Deacons or faithful members. On the third offense, let the case be brought before the Church and if there be no satisfactory humiliation, the offender shall be expelled by a vote of the church members.

By being an independent church, the member expelled will not be entitled for any appeal except by restoring oneself back in fellowship with our Lord and Savior.

The Official Board

A quorum of the Board at Zion #3 Church shall consist of

1. All the members present at the meeting.
2. Only members entitled to vote shall vote.
3. Any member 18 years old or older in good standing shall be able to vote.
4. A Deacon will preside over each board meeting.
5. The board should meet the first Thursday of every month as much as possible.

6. The Pastor or a Deacon may call a meeting at any time for a special purpose or any emergency.

Class Leaders Qualifications and Duties

It shall be the duty of the class leader to live a pious life and set a godly example before his class, to study carefully the Holy Scripture fully qualifying for the faithful performance of duties as a leader and counselor of his class.

Under direction of the Pastor, each shall meet his class in class meeting or prayer meeting as often as practicable, speak to them concerning their spiritual welfare, exhort them to unity and love, and extend the freedom of our prayer and class meetings to all sincere and well-disposed persons who may desire to attend them.

When any member of said class is sick or delinquent in the performance of their duties the class leader shall visit them and labor with them as circumstances may require or arrange for someone else to do so.

Duties of the Deacons

Zion #3 Church shall have three (3) or more Deacons.

As stated in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 KJV “**8** Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; **9** Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. **10** And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. **11** Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. **12** Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. **13** For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Procedure for Electing Deacons

When the Church membership feels that we have a proper prospect to become a deacon, this person should be set aside for a period of 12 months. This period is to prove that he does conform to all qualifications and have the ability to perform duties as set forth in the above section.

After serving the above set time and showing himself to be qualified to serve as a deacon, he shall become an ordained deacon for Zion #3 Church.

Lord's Supper and Foot Washing

We believe the Lord's Supper to be a commemoration of the death of Christ for our sins. The Lord's Supper, which uses unleavened bread as the emblem of Jesus' broken body and the cup of wine as the emblem of His shed blood, is the ceremony believers partake to express their love for Christ, faith and hope in Him, and pledge their perpetual fidelity to Christ.

It is the privilege and duty of all that have spiritual union with Christ to commemorate his death. No man has a right to forbid these tokens to the least of his disciples.

We believe that the washing of the Saint's feet is a sacred ordinance which teaches humility and reminds the believer of the necessity of a daily cleansing from all sin. It was instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ and called an example on the night of His betrayal and performed in connection with the institution of the Lord's Supper.

Only ordained authority of the church shall administer the elements of the Lord's Supper. It shall be the duty of the deacons to provide the elements for the Sacraments of the Lord's Supper always securing unfermented wine and unleavened bread.

Pastor Duties and Direction

It shall be the duty of the Pastor to preach the word of God to his people.

He shall endeavor to edify and instruct all in the faith of Jesus Christ.

He shall visit the sick members, touching their spiritual condition, pray at family altar, hold prayer meetings, administer relief to the needy, give his undivided support and cooperation to all the departments of church activities, and have general supervision over Sunday School.

He shall be diligent, never trifle away his time, always be discreet, and never trifle away his time. His motto should be **Holiness to the Lord**.

He should avoid all vain conversations, conducting himself prudently and demean himself in all respects as a true Christian. He should be at all times averse to crediting evil reports and believe evil on no one without good evidence.

He should speak evil of no one. Whatever his thoughts, keep them inside his own breast until he can tell the person concerned what he thinks is wrong with their conduct.

Let it be his business to seek as many souls saved as possible.

The Pastor shall at no time marry same sex couples as this is based on Zion #3's belief that marriage is the union between a woman and a man.

Officers of Zion #3 Church

The Officers shall be the Pastor, Deacons, and Trustees on call.

Elected Officers

1. Class Leader
2. Assistant Class Leader
3. Sunday School Superintendent
4. Assistant Sunday School Superintendent
5. Sunday School Secretary
6. Sunday School Treasurer
7. Church Treasurer
8. Sunday School Teachers
9. Board of Trustees

Membership

Any person wishing to become a member must meet the following requirements.

1. Saved (born again) Christian.
2. Baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.
3. Attending Zion #3 regularly for six (6) months.
4. Non-voting member, 12-17 years old.
5. Voting member, 18 years and older.
6. Any member who is licensed by the State of Ohio or one of the reciprocating states to conceal/carry a registered firearm, is allowed to conceal/carry while on Church premises or while attending church functions.

It shall be the duty of every member to attend church service at Zion #3 Church as much as possible, health permitting. Failure to attend services for a period of six (6) months will lead to dismissal by the Church.

Church Book

It shall be the duty of the ordained authority to review the church book every six (6) months to review those who may be delinquent in attending church.

When it looks like a member is becoming delinquent, we should personally contact them, giving them every opportunity to return to the Church.

Revisions to the Bylaws

No additions or subtractions to these bylaws shall be made without approval by the majority vote of all voting members.

Revised January 2019