

By-Laws

**First Church
of Christ, Scientist,
Hoboken, N. J.**

Historical Sketch

A group of Christian Scientists first met in Hoboken in October 1908. This group was recognized by The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Mass., as a Christian Science Society in December, 1909, and on February 6, 1912, was incorporated as First Church of Christ, Scientist, Hoboken, N. J. It was again incorporated on January 24, 1922, under an act of the Legislature affecting Christian Science Churches as embodied in Chapter 66, page 101 of the New Jersey Pamphlet Laws of 1921.

Regular services were first held at 105 Eighth Street, and later at 234 Washington Street. The Church then acquired its own property at 414 Hudson Street, and subsequently moved to the present location, 829 Bloomfield Street.

The Corner Stone of the church edifice at 829 Bloomfield Street was laid on December 13, 1930, and on May 17, 1931, this Church was dedicated.

Preamble

"The Magna Charta of Christian Science means much, *multum in parvo*, — all-in-one and one-in-all. It stands for the inalienable, universal rights of men. Essentially democratic, its government is administered by the common consent of the governed, wherein and whereby man governed by his creator is self-governed. The church is the mouth-piece of Christian Science, — its law and gospel are according to Christ Jesus; its rules are health, holiness, and immortality, — equal rights and privileges, equality of the sexes, rotation in office."

(The First Church of Christ,
Scientist, and Miscellany by
Mary Baker Eddy, pp. 254, 255.)

CHURCH BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I.

Organization and Government

Section 1. Title.

The corporate name of this Church is "First Church of Christ, Scientist, Hoboken, N. J."

Section 2. Acknowledgment.

This Church is a branch of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Mass., and recognizes all other branch churches and societies listed in The Christian Science Journal.

Section 3. Officers.

The officers of this Church shall consist of a Board of Trustees, a First Reader, a Second Reader, a Treasurer, and a Clerk.

Section 4. Authority.

The authority exercised by this Church shall be determined by a majority vote of those present and voting at any corporate meeting, unless provided otherwise by the laws of the State of New Jersey or by other provisions of these By-Laws.

Section 5. Support.

This Church shall be supported by voluntary contributions.

ARTICLE II.

Pastor

Section 1. Ordination.

The Bible, and "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," by Mary Baker Eddy, shall be the Pastor of this Church, as ordained for The Mother Church and its branches.

ARTICLE III.

Religious Services

Section 1. Time.

This Church shall hold Sunday Services, Wednesday evening meetings, a service on Thanksgiving Day, and such other services and meetings as may be authorized by the Board of Directors of The Mother Church.

Section 2. Conduct.

The Church services and meetings shall be conducted as prescribed by the Manual of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts.

Section 3. Notices.

Suitable notices concerning the religious services and meetings of this Church, and such other announcements as may be authorized by the Board of Trustees, shall be prepared and read by the Reader.

ARTICLE IV.

Officers

Section 1. Qualifications.

To be eligible for office in this Church, a person shall be at least twenty-one years of age and be a member of this Church and of The Mother Church.

Section 2. Rotation in Office.

A person who has completed a full term of three years as First or Second Reader shall not be eligible for re-election.

A person who has completed a full term of three years as Trustee, or who has served an unexpired term of more than one year, shall not be eligible for re-election until four years after the expiration of that term. However, a person elected to fill an unexpired term of one year or less is eligible for re-election.

ARTICLE V.

Readers

Section 1. Duties.

The Readers of this Church shall be a man and a woman. In the event that it is not possible to have a man and a woman as Readers, then it shall be permissible to have two women or two men.

They shall possess the qualifications and perform the duties prescribed for them, respectively, by the Manual of The Mother Church.

In the absence of the First Reader, it shall be the duty of the Second Reader to conduct the Wednesday evening meeting.

Section 2. Term of Office.

Readers shall be elected for a term of three years.

If in the judgment of the Board of Trustees a Reader shall be found inadequate or unworthy, the matter shall be laid before the Church at a special meeting, and if the Church so decides, by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, the Reader shall be removed.

Section 3. Privilege.

The Readers shall be privileged to attend all meetings of the Board of Trustees, but shall not vote thereat.

ARTICLE VI.

Board of Trustees

Section 1. Election.

The Board of Trustees of this Church shall be composed of nine members, elected for a term of three years each.

Three Trustees shall be elected at each annual meeting. They shall hold office until their successors are elected and take office.

Section 2. Organization and Government.

The Board of Trustees shall meet after each

annual meeting as soon as practicable and organize by choosing a chairman. Said chairman can be elected once only during his term of office.

His authority shall be strictly administrative, and at no time shall it extend beyond the business meetings of the Board of Trustees.

In the absence of the Chairman, the business meeting of the Board of Trustees shall be called to order by the Clerk, who shall at once proceed with the election of a chairman pro tem.

Five Trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. A smaller number may adjourn from time to time until a quorum is present.

Section 3. Duties.

The Board of Trustees, having purely administrative powers, shall conduct the business affairs of the Church in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey and of the By-Laws of this Church.

The Church, however, shall have the right to instruct in all such matters at a corporate meeting.

The Board of Trustees shall have the power to make contracts and purchases and to collect and disburse moneys. It shall have the power to purchase, lease, acquire, receive, have and hold lands, tenements, hereditaments, legacies, donations,

moneys, goods, and chattels, in trust, for the use of the enrolled members of this Church, and to sell, lease, assign or otherwise dispose of the same or any part thereof; provided that no sale, conveyance, mortgage or lease of any real property, held in trust as aforesaid, shall be made unless previously authorized by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at a regular or special meeting called for that purpose.

The Board of Trustees shall meet in regular meeting on the second Monday of each month.

The Chairman or, in his absence, any member of the Board may instruct the Clerk to call a special meeting of the Trustees by giving at least twelve hours notice thereof either personally or by mail.

Section 4. Treasurer.

The Board of Trustees shall appoint annually from its own membership a Treasurer to hold office until his successor has been appointed.

The Treasurer shall have custody of the funds of this Church and shall keep a correct account of all receipts and disbursements. He shall disburse all funds under the direction of the Board of Trustees.

Upon the expiration of his term of service, all books and documents pertaining to this office shall be delivered to his successor.

The Treasurer shall also be Chairman of the Finance Committee. The duties of this committee shall consist in the examination and approval of financial obligations incurred by this Church and in co-operating with the Treasurer in counting the collections. At no time shall the Finance Committee's authority supersede that of the Treasurer.

Section 5. Clerk.

The Board of Trustees shall appoint annually a Clerk to hold office until his successor has been appointed.

The Clerk shall keep the minutes and enter the orders, acts, and proceedings in a book to be kept for that purpose, and shall have custody of the common seal, papers, deeds, writings, minutes, and documents belonging to this Church, all of which shall be delivered to his successor at the expiration of his term of service.

It shall also be the duty of the Clerk to attend all meetings of the Church and the Board of Trustees; to conduct the correspondence of the Church; to receive all applications for membership; to issue letters of dismissal upon the order of the Board of Trustees; to keep a roll of the members of the Church; to call all church meetings in accordance with the By-Laws; to preside thereat until a chairman is elected; and to co-operate with the Chairman of the Board in calling the Trustees together whenever it is deemed necessary.

Section 6. **Appointments.**

The Board of Trustees shall appoint annually, a Soloist, Organist, Librarian, Sunday School Superintendent, Caretaker, and the following committees: Assistant Committee on Publication; Auditing; Circulating Library; Extension of the Circulation of the Christian Science Monitor; Finance; House; Information regarding the Christian Science Benevolent Association Sanatoriums; Lecture; Literature Distribution; Membership; Monitor Advertising Information; Monitor Advertising Representative; Music; Printing and Stationery; Reading Room; Sunday School; Usher, and such other committees, substitutes, or assistants as may be deemed necessary.

It shall also be the duty of the Board of Trustees to appoint substitute Readers. In the absence of the substitute, the regular Reader may make his own appointment.

The qualifications of the substitute must conform to the provisions of the Manual of The Mother Church relating to Readers.

Section 7. **Reports.**

The chairman of each committee, including the Treasurer, Librarian, and Superintendent of the Sunday School, shall deliver a written report to the Board of Trustees by the Wednesday preceding its regular monthly meeting.

ARTICLE VII.

Membership

Section 1. **No Soliciting.**

Members of this Church shall absolutely refrain from soliciting new members.

Section 2. **Qualifications for Membership.**

To qualify for membership in this Church an applicant must:

(a) Be a member of no other church or religious organization, The Mother Church excepted.

(b) Subscribe to the Tenets of The Mother Church.

(c) Be willing to obey the 89th Edition of the Manual of The Mother Church and the By-Laws of this Church.

(d) Accept the Bible and "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" by Mary Baker Eddy as his only textbooks, and study all other works by Mary Baker Eddy as well as all other authorized Christian Science Literature.

(e) Have studied Christian Science for at least one year before applying for membership.

Section 3. **Application.**

All persons desiring to unite with this Church

shall make application in writing to the Clerk upon a form provided for that purpose.

The application shall be endorsed by two members of this Church in good standing.

Application for admission to membership in this Church may be made monthly.

Section 4. Examination and Admission.

A Membership Committee composed of the First and Second Readers and one other member shall interview all applicants for membership.

The Committee shall make a written report to the Board of Trustees of its findings and recommendations.

Upon the unanimous vote of the Board, and upon signing their names in the enrollment book, said applicants shall become members of this Church.

Section 5. Dismissal.

A letter of dismissal from this Church shall be given by the Clerk, when so authorized by the Board of Trustees, to any member making written application therefor to said Board.

Section 6. Non-Attendance.

Any member failing to attend the services of this Church for a period of six months may be dropped from membership.

Notice of such action shall be mailed to the last known address of said member.

ARTICLE VIII.

Discipline

Section 1. Reasons.

Disciplinary action shall be incurred by a member violating the provisions of the Manual of The Mother Church or the By-Laws of this Church.

Section 2. Charges and Admonition.

Charges of conduct unbecoming a member of this Church shall not be entertained unless made in writing to the Board of Trustees by another member in good standing. However, no action shall be taken thereon unless the member making such charges shall have first complied with the Scriptural requirements given in Matthew 18:15-17. A copy of such charges shall then be furnished to the member against whom the complaint has been made. Said member may be represented by any member of this Church as counsel and shall be given a full and impartial hearing.

Section 3. Hearing.

The charges shall be heard and determined by a committee of five wholly unbiased members, appointed for such purpose by the Board of Trustees and the Readers. This committee shall report its decision to the Board who shall then take such action as it may deem proper.

Section 4. **Appeal.**

The member against whom such charges have been made may appeal to the church membership within thirty days from the decision of the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE IX

Sunday School

Section 1. **Supervision.**

The Superintendent together with all the Sunday School workers shall constitute the Sunday School Committee.

Section 2. **Conduct.**

The Sunday School shall be conducted in accordance with the Manual of The Mother Church.

Section 3. **Funds.**

Funds collected in the Sunday School shall be turned over to the Treasurer and shall be disbursed at the direction of the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE X

Reading Room

Section 1. **Supervision.**

This Church shall maintain a Reading Room under the supervision of the Board of Trustees.

The location of the Reading Room shall be subject to the approval of the Church in corporate meeting.

Section 2. **Literature.**

No literature shall be kept for study or sale in the Reading Room except that authorized by the Manual of The Mother Church.

ARTICLE XI

Corporate Meetings

Section 1. **Annual Meeting.**

The annual meeting of the members of this Church shall be held on the first Tuesday evening after Communion Sunday in the month of January to elect Trustees, to hear reports of church activities, and to transact such other business as may be properly presented.

Section 2. **Regular Meetings.**

Regular meetings of the members of this Church shall be held on the first Tuesday evening after the second Monday in April and October of each year to hear reports of church activities for the preceding period and to transact such other business as may be properly presented.

Section 3. **Special Meetings.**

Special meetings may be called by the Board of Trustees or upon the written request of ten members of the Church addressed to the Clerk. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the notice thereof, and no other business shall be transacted thereat.

Section 4. Election of Readers.

A special meeting of the church members shall be held on the second Tuesday evening in December every third year beginning with the year 1911 for the purpose of electing a First and Second Reader. The Readers so elected shall take office the first Sunday following the next annual meeting.

Section 5. Vacancy in Readership.

Should a vacancy occur in the office of either Reader, the Clerk, authorized by the Board of Trustees, shall call a special meeting of the church members to fill said vacancy for the unexpired term.

Section 6. Notice of Meetings.

Notice of every corporate meeting shall be mailed to the members at least ten days prior to the date of the meeting.

When an election is to take place at such meeting, the names of the officers whose successors are to be elected shall be stated in the notice.

Section 7. Devotional Exercises.

Devotional exercises shall precede all corporate meetings and shall be conducted by the First Reader or, in his absence, by the Second Reader.

These exercises shall open with our Leader's hymn, "Feed My Sheep," and shall include from

the Manual of The Mother Church, Article VIII, Section 1, "A Rule for Motives and Acts," and from "The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany," "Rotation in Office" (pp. 254, 255).

Section 8. Election of Chairman.

Each corporate meeting shall be called to order by the Clerk or, in his absence, by the Chairman of the Board. Directly following the devotional exercises the members shall proceed to elect a chairman by a plurality vote.

Section 9. Majority Vote.

The affirmative vote of the majority of those present and voting at any corporate meeting shall be sufficient to pass resolutions or elect Trustees.

A two-thirds vote shall be required to elect Readers.

Section 10. Qualifications for Voting.

Members of this Church in good standing, of legal age, and present at a corporate meeting, shall have the right to vote.

Section 11. Voting.

Readers and Trustees shall be elected by direct ballot without previous nomination.

The returns of each ballot shall be made known to the chairman of the meeting, who shall then state the name of each candidate and the number of votes received.

Section 12. Quorum.

One-third of the church membership shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at corporate meetings.

A smaller number may adjourn from time to time until a quorum is present.

Section 13. Rules of Order.

"Robert's Rules of Order" shall be the parliamentary authority of this Church and a copy of this book shall be on hand at every corporate meeting.

ARTICLE XII

Conferences

Section 1. Participation.

In accordance with Article XXIII, Section 1, of the Manual of The Mother Church, this Church may decide to confer with other churches either in full membership or by representation.

Such conferences or participation therein may be resolved upon by the Board of Trustees or by the Church in corporate meeting.

Section 2. Reports.

A written report shall be submitted at the next corporate meeting after the holding of, or participation in, such a conference.

ARTICLE XIII

Amendments

Section 1. Requirements.

These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the Church called for such purpose provided:

(a) An application for the proposed amendments shall have been signed by at least ten members of this Church.

(b) Written copies of the proposed amendments shall have been filed for inspection of the members of the Church, with the Clerk, and with the Librarian of the Reading Room, at least ten days before such meeting.

(c) Notice of such filing shall have been sent to the members with the notice of the meeting.

APPENDIX
STANDING RULES
ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR
CORPORATE MEETINGS

1. Annual Meeting

1. Call to Order by the Clerk.
2. Religious Exercises.
3. Appointment of Tellers for Election.
4. Election of Presiding Officer.
5. Roll Call of Members.
6. Reading Notice of Meeting.
7. Reading for Approval, Minutes of Previous Meetings.
8. Election Balloting.
9. Announcement of Result of Ballot.
10. Reports.
11. Unfinished Business.
12. New Business.
13. Adjournment.

2. Regular Meeting

1. Call to Order by the Clerk.
2. Religious Exercises.
3. Appointment of Tellers for Election.
4. Election of Presiding Officer.
5. Roll Call of Members.
6. Reading Notice of Meeting.

7. Reading for Approval, Minutes of Previous Meetings.
8. Reports.
9. Unfinished Business.
10. New Business.
11. Adjournment.

3. Special Meeting

1. Call to Order by the Clerk.
2. Religious Exercises.
3. Appointment of Tellers for Election.
4. Election of Presiding Officer.
5. Roll Call of Members.
6. Reading Notice of Meeting.
7. Consideration of Subjects of Special Meeting.
8. Balloting.
9. Adjournment.

4. Meeting for Election of Readers

1. Call to Order by the Clerk.
2. Religious Exercises.
3. Appointment of Tellers for Election.
4. Election of Presiding Officer.
5. Roll Call of Members.
6. Reading Notice of Meeting.
7. Election Balloting.
8. Announcement of Result of Ballot.
9. Fixing Salaries of Readers.
10. Adjournment.

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