

## **Constitution of Dunwoody Community Church**

This constitution revision is effective June 2, 2014. Any revisions going forward require unanimity of the Elders Ministry of Dunwoody Community Church and submitted for adoption via majority vote by the recognized Board of Directors per the Articles of Incorporation filed with the Georgia Secretary of State.

### **ARTICLE I – Name**

The name of the church being Dunwoody Community Church, hereafter referred to as DCC, is a Georgia not-for-profit corporation having its principal place of worship and business affairs located at 2250 Dunwoody Club Drive, Dunwoody, Georgia.

### **Article II – Purpose**

Our Purpose is twofold:

- The Purpose of Humanity: To bring glory to God and be a reflection of Jesus
- The Purpose of DCC: To help people encounter God

### **Article III – Essentials of Our Faith**

*“In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.” – Augustine of Hippo*

We believe the Bible to be the inspired, infallible, authoritative Word of God.  
**(2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21)**

We believe there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **(Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 3:16-17, Matthew 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14, 1 Peter 1:2)**

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ **(Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23, John 1:14, 1 Timothy 3:16)**, nor is there salvation through any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved **(Acts 4:12)**, in His virgin birth **(Isaiah 7:14, Luke 1:26, 27, 30, 31, 34, 35, 37)** in His sinless life **(2 Corinthians 5:21, Hebrews 4:15, 1 Peter 2:22)** in His miracles **(John 2:1-11, John 4:46-54, Luke 5:1-11, Matthew 9:27-31, Luke 7:11-17)**, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood **(2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 3:25, Romans 4:25, 1 John 2:2, 1 John 4:10)** in His bodily resurrection **(Matthew 28:9, Luke 24:36-40, John 20:26, John 21:1-2)**, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father **(Luke 24:50-53, Acts 1:9, Acts 2:30-34, Ephesians 4:8-10, Hebrews 4:12)** and in His personal return in power and glory **(John 14:1-4, Acts 1:11, 1 Corinthians 11:26, 2 Thessalonians 2:19, James 5:7-9, Revelation 3:11, Revelation 22:12, Revelation 22:20)**

We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful people, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential. (**John 3:3-8, Titus 3:5**)

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life. (**John 14:17, Romans 5:1-5, 1 Corinthians 3:16, 1 Corinthians 6:19, Galatians 5:22-23, 1 John 3:24**)

We believe upon personal faith in Christ, each person is baptized into the body of Christ, the Church Universal. (**1 Corinthians 12:13**)

We believe followers of Jesus should gather together to devote themselves to the teaching of the God's Word, fellowship, worship, and prayer. (**Acts 2:42-47**)

#### **Article IV – Governance**

DCC recognizes, acknowledges, and submits to the ultimate authority of Jesus Christ as the Head of the Church and under Whose authority all governance is accountable.

##### **Section 1 – Board of Directors**

The active Elder Ministry shall designate a minimum of three Church members to serve as the legally required Board of Directors of a Georgia corporation. This board will take those actions as required under the laws of Georgia and the minutes shall be recorded as meetings of the Board of Directors. Such minutes shall be retained as a permanent record separately from other church records and immediately shall be made available to the appropriate State authorities as needed by them.

##### **Section 2. – Elder Ministry**

DCC has adopted the biblical model of an Elder led church. Throughout the New Testament Elders are the recognized office leading the post-resurrection church. (See DCC Ministry Principles & Processes for detail regarding the practices of the Elders Ministry.)

##### **Section 3. – Congregational Membership**

###### **3.1 Why membership?**

Regarding membership, 1 Corinthians 12:20 states, “But now indeed there are many members, yet one body”. Further on, in verse 24, Paul continues, “But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, 25 that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one

member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.”

Scripture informs us that we are part of the body, and individually, members as well. But not just one or the other, and recognizing that God composed the body, we are to become a part of it and use the gifts (and no believer is without some gift or gifts that are for the mutual good) to build up Christ's body and so honor the Lord.

Church membership serves a two-fold purpose:

- To Unite the Church in Community
- To Establish a Context for Accountability

### **3.2 The Qualifications & Process for Becoming a Member**

#### **1. Qualifications:**

- Statement of Faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- Willingness to undergo baptism, if not already done so.
- Alignment with beliefs, philosophy, governance and vision of DCC.

#### **2. Process -** The purpose behind the membership process is not to make individuals entering our community jump through hoops in order to join our family, but rather to create space for people to build relationships with our Elders and Staff and with people who are also entering our family at the same time.

**a)** Attend Our Membership Class - Our membership class is offered three times a year lasting approximately four weeks. The classes are conducted concurrent with our first hour Bible Class on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15. The class covers church vision, philosophy, doctrine, governance, church life and membership responsibilities.

**b)** Affirm & Connect - As part of the class we ask people to fill out a questionnaire that gives us your contact information, states that you affirm our beliefs and let's us know about your life in Christ thus far.

Upon receiving this questionnaire an Elder will contact you to set up a time to meet with you and your family. The purpose of this meeting is to facilitate stronger connection and familiarity with our church's leadership.

Each new member will be presented to the church in order to be recognized and prayed over as new members of our church family. Any individual willing to give a brief testimony of their devotion to Christ, the church, and the work of the ministry will be given the opportunity to do so.

Membership has the responsibility of:

- Participating in Annual Ministry Plan Creation
- Voting on Annual Ministry Plan
- Voting on Annual Budget
- Voting on Certain Budget Change Propositions
- Selection and Appointment of Deacons
- Nomination of Elder Candidates
- Affirming Elder Appointments by Prayer and Laying on of Hands

## **Article V. – Ministry & Business of DCC**

### **Section 1. – Annual Ministry Plan (September 1<sup>st</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup> annually)**

The Elder Ministry with Staff and Ministry Leaders will develop an annual DCC Ministry Plan inclusive of all ministry goals, efforts, resources, and requirements spanning the annual calendar.

Every ministry plan will involve the following elements:

- Description of overall annual vision for the church ministry
- An overall annual calendar of ministry events and activities
- By ministry type, the aligning vision with the overall vision
- By ministry type, the functional plan inclusive of people, resources, and budgets
- Measures for success and accountability for each part of the plan.

### **Section 2. – Annual Budget**

The annual budget for overall church ministry will be an inherent part of the Annual Ministry Plan submitted by the Elders for Congregational affirmation. The budget will be broken down in the following arrangement:

- Ministry Endeavor – A description of the ministry endeavor being submitted.
- Ministry Resources – A listing of all resources necessary to execute and meet the ministry endeavor goals and/or targets. This will include people, materials, consumables, travel, technology, etc.
- Endeavor Timeframe – A date range for the duration of the endeavor with emphasis on any significant milestone dates that will impact spending on the budget.
- A calendared “spend schedule” indicating anticipated spending by month through the endeavor timeframe. Care should be taken to ensure any exceptional spending (i.e. significant milestone dates) is highlighted.

### **Section 3. - Ministry Plan and Budget Approval**

The Annual Ministry Plan will be agreed to no later than August 31st each year. By the second week of September the approved plan will be presented to the Congregation with a challenge to participate and volunteer for ministry opportunities. The Congregation will then give affirmation of the plan and support of the budget via a majority vote of the membership. The Congregation will also be asked to support the budget for the plan through their committed giving.

Should the majority vote not affirm the plan and budget as presented, the Elder Ministry will call a separate meeting of the Congregation to hear their reasons and concerns with the goal being an affirmed outcome.

### **Section 4. – Ministry Plan Change Management Process**

As the Holy Spirit directs the Elder Ministry throughout the year, the approved annual ministry plan and requisite budget assignments may change.

In cases where there is a desired change to the approved plan and budget, the following process will come into play:

- Those proposing a change will present in writing, supported by a face-to-face presentation to the balance of the Elder Ministry. The Elder Ministry, at their discretion, may invite the input of the Deacons, regarding the proposed material changes. Material changes involve any start of a new ministry, termination of existing ministry, and/or budgetary impact over \$5,000 annually.
- The Elder Ministry will dialogue with those proposing the changes regarding the proposed change(s) and upon gathering sufficient information will prayerfully consider such a change request and will either approve, alter, or deny the change request by a unanimous vote.
- Any proposed changes approved by Elder Ministry in excess of 10% of the annual budget or such financial commitments spanning beyond the current year will require membership affirmation by a majority vote of members present at a congregational meeting called for this purpose.

### **Section 5. – Church Membership Meetings for Ministry Plan & Business Purposes**

The membership meetings of the church will be called by the Elders Ministry quarterly to conduct formal business meetings as well as present updates on the annual ministry plan status, finances of the church, and various church supported ministry endeavors. The time and agenda for such meeting will be announced at least two weeks prior to the gathering.

The Elders Ministry can call special membership meetings of the church when they deem necessary to address various issues that arise between the quarterly meetings.

Membership meetings, other than those called by the Elders Ministry, may be called once the Elders Ministry receives a petition signed by a minimum of one-third of the active voting membership.

A quorum for the various membership meetings of the church will be a minimum of thirty-three percent (33%) of the voting members. In the event a quorum is not present, a second meeting will be called within ten days and the membership will be contacted regarding the second meeting time, location, and agenda. Those active voting members present at the second meeting will constitute a quorum.